

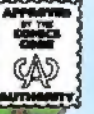
Archie

ADVENTURE
SERIES

NO.42 | \$1.50
JAN.

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG™



SPAZ
HARIO

TYRANNY-- LIKE A DARK CLOUD IT SHADOWS A LAND, CAUSING THE VALIANT TO REBEL, CREATING WAR...

WAR-- ITS SOLDIERS ARE OFTEN CALLED **FREEDOM FIGHTERS**, WHO ARE SOMETIMES DRIVEN TO DESPERATE ACTS, EVEN AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED NEUTRALITY...

NEUTRALITY-- A POSITION IN WAR THE FABLED **FLOATING ISLAND** HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MAINTAIN AS ITS NATIVES LOOK FOR HOPE FROM ITS **GUARDIAN**...

GUARDIAN-- THE ONE BEING THEY DEPEND ON TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE DESPERATE ACTS OF THOSE IN SEARCH OF **FREEDOM** AND THEIR WAR'S INVASION...

INVASION-- SOMETHING **KNUCKLES** THE **ECHIDNA** NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONTEND WITH FROM THE LIKES OF **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!**

ARE YOU CRAZY-- BARGING IN HERE AND DEMANDING I FORK OVER MY **CHAOS EMERALD** ?!

WITHOUT IT, MY **ISLAND** WILL FALL!

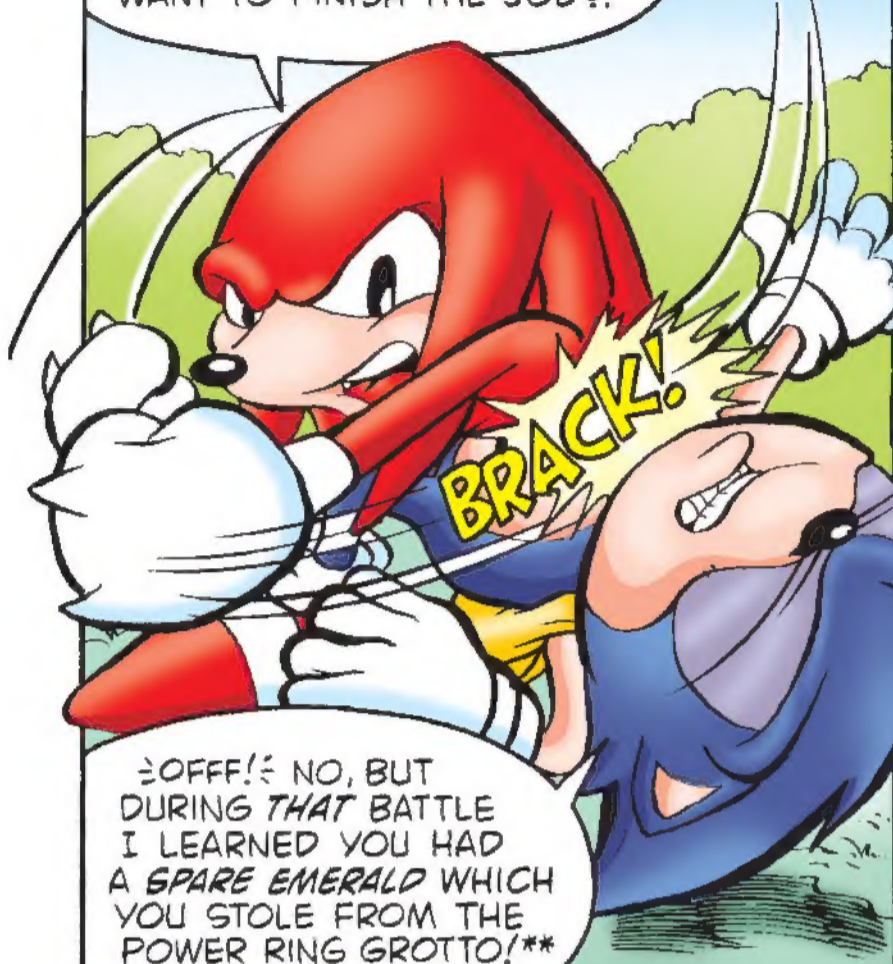
I'VE GOTTA HAVE IT -- THE FATE OF **MOBIUS** DEPENDS ON IT!

"IN EVERY KINGDOM THERE MUST EXIST A **LITTLE CHAOS!**"

PART 1

ROBOTNIK JUST TRIED TO SINK MY ISLAND*-- NOW YOU WANT TO FINISH THE JOB?!

THAT GROTTO'S ON WHAT USED TO BE ROYAL REAL ESTATE AND BY RIGHTS IT BELONGS TO KING ACORN'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS!



OFF! NO, BUT DURING THAT BATTLE I LEARNED YOU HAD A SPARE EMERALD WHICH YOU STOLE FROM THE POWER RING GROTTO! **

UGH! SEZ YOU! I NEED THAT EXTRA EMERALD FOR "HOME OWNER'S INSURANCE" AND I WON'T GIVE IT UP!

*NO, YOU DIDN'T MISS A THING, FANS. READ THE SONICQUEST LIMITED SERIES FOR THE LOWDOWN. ON SALE NOW!--EDITOR-X1

* SUPER SONIC VS. HYPER KNUCKLES#1-EDITORX2

SONIC! KNUCKLES! STOP! THIS WON'T SAVE KING ACORN'S LIFE!

THEN WHAT'S THIS ABOUT SAVING HIS LIFE?

SOME UNKNOWN SIDE EFFECT OF HIS IMPRISONMENT IS TURNING HIS BODY INTO CRYSTAL! ****

WHAT'S HE MEAN? THE KING'S IMPRISONED!

NOT ANY MORE! WE FINALLY RESCUED HIM FROM THE ZONE OF SILENCE! ****

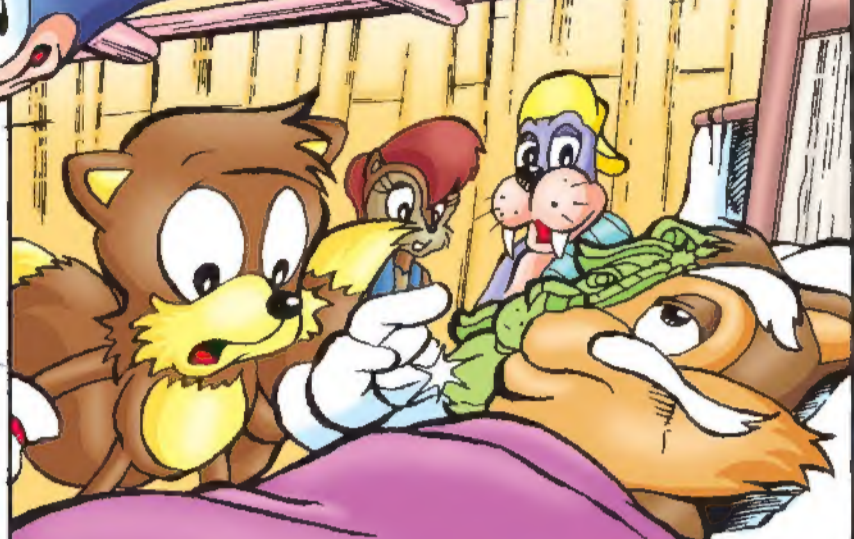
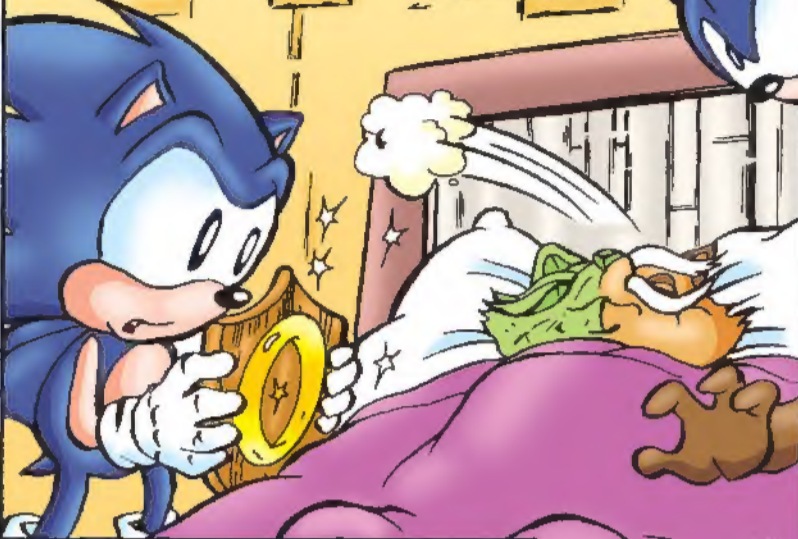


*** LAST ISSUE -- EDITOR X3

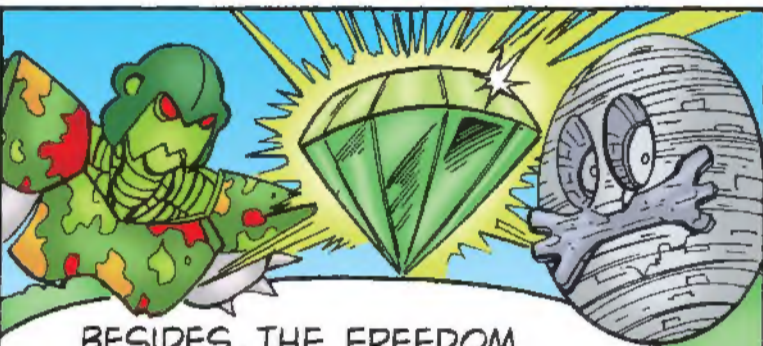
**** SONICQUEST #1-- "TOO MANY FOOT-NOTES EDITOR"! (2)

"WE TRIED TO USE A *POWER RING* TO RESTORE HIS HEALTH, BUT IT FAILED!*

"AND WHEN TAILS SAID HE LOOKED LIKE A *CHAOS EMERALD**, I FIGURED MAYBE A REAL ONE WOULD DO THE TRICK!"



* SONICQUEST #1 -- EDITOR



BESIDES, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS COULD USE ITS *POWER* AGAINST BUTTNIK'S NEW KICK-BUTT INVENTIONS!

WE GOT THE ONES ROBOTNIK--
=MMPH!:=

WHAT HE MEANS IS WE TRIED, BUT BUTTNIK** SUCKED IT DRY!

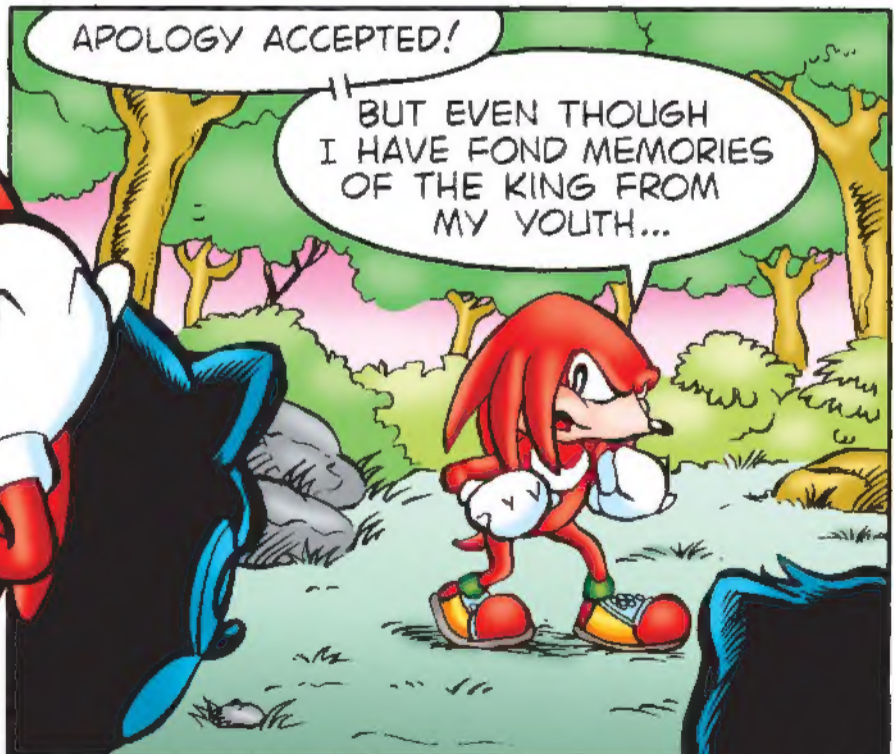


SORRY I WAS HASTY, BUT NOW YOU KNOW I'VE GOTTA HAVE THAT EMERALD!

APOLOGY ACCEPTED!

BUT EVEN THOUGH I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF THE KING FROM MY YOUTH...

IF IT'S POWER YOU NEED, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET MORE *RINGS* FROM THE *GROTTO*?



** AGAIN, SONICQUEST #1 -- EDITOR



..."THE" SURVIVAL OF MY HOMELAND IS AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR REBELLION--

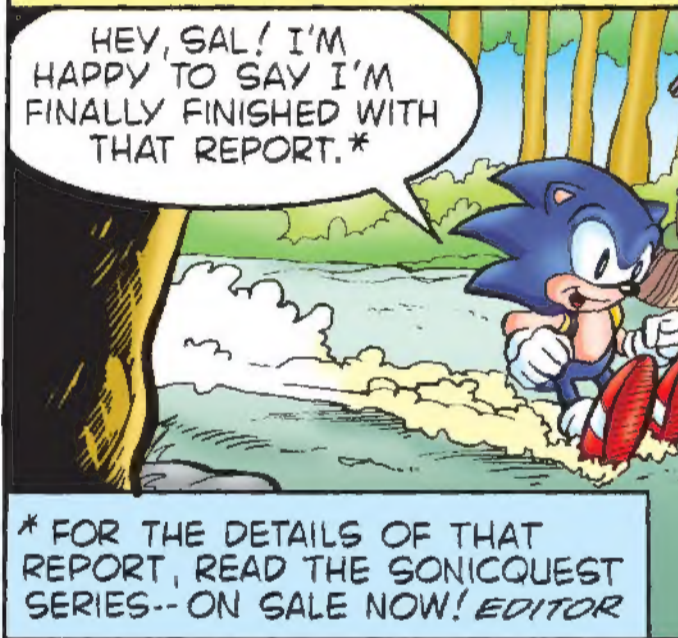
--NO EMERALD'S GONNA LEAVE THIS ISLAND, AND THAT'S FINAL!



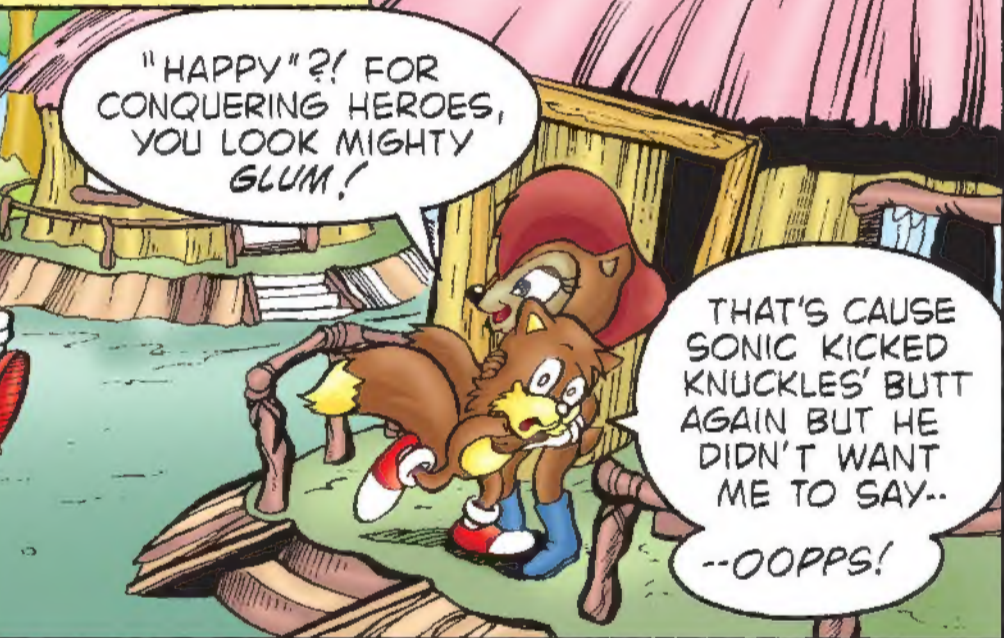
OK, I'M THROUGH FIGHTING, BUT I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET NOT HELPING PRINCESS SALLY SAVE HER FATHER!

I ALREADY AM, PAL... I ALREADY AM...

AS ONE "DOOR" CLOSES ON THE FLOATING ISLAND, ANOTHER OPENS IN KNOTHOLE THE NEXT DAY...



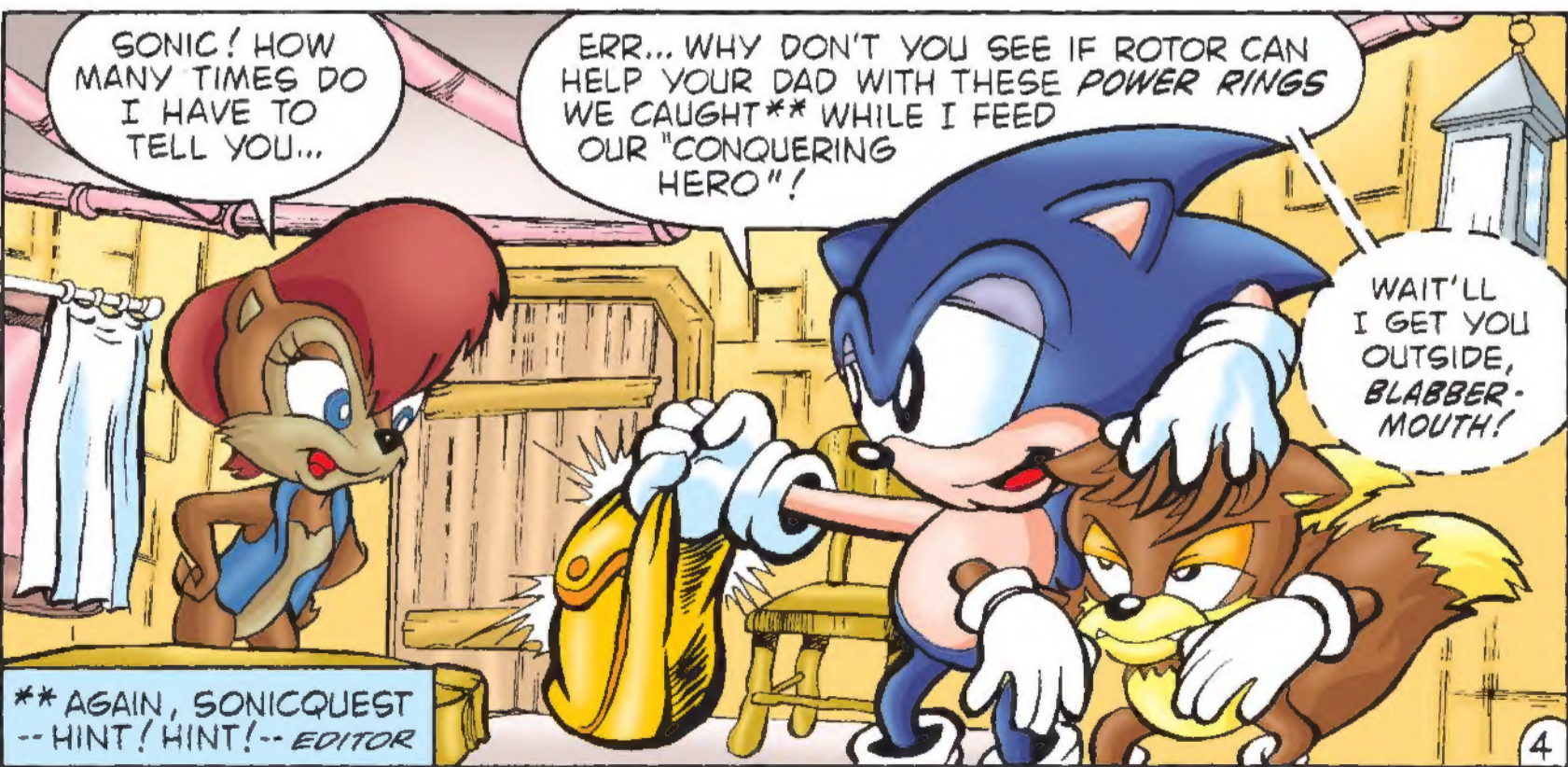
HEY, SAL! I'M HAPPY TO SAY I'M FINALLY FINISHED WITH THAT REPORT.*



"HAPPY"?! FOR CONQUERING HEROES, YOU LOOK MIGHTY GLUM!

THAT'S CAUSE SONIC KICKED KNUCKLES' BUTT AGAIN BUT HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO SAY--
--OOPPS!

* FOR THE DETAILS OF THAT REPORT, READ THE SONICQUEST SERIES-- ON SALE NOW! EDITOR

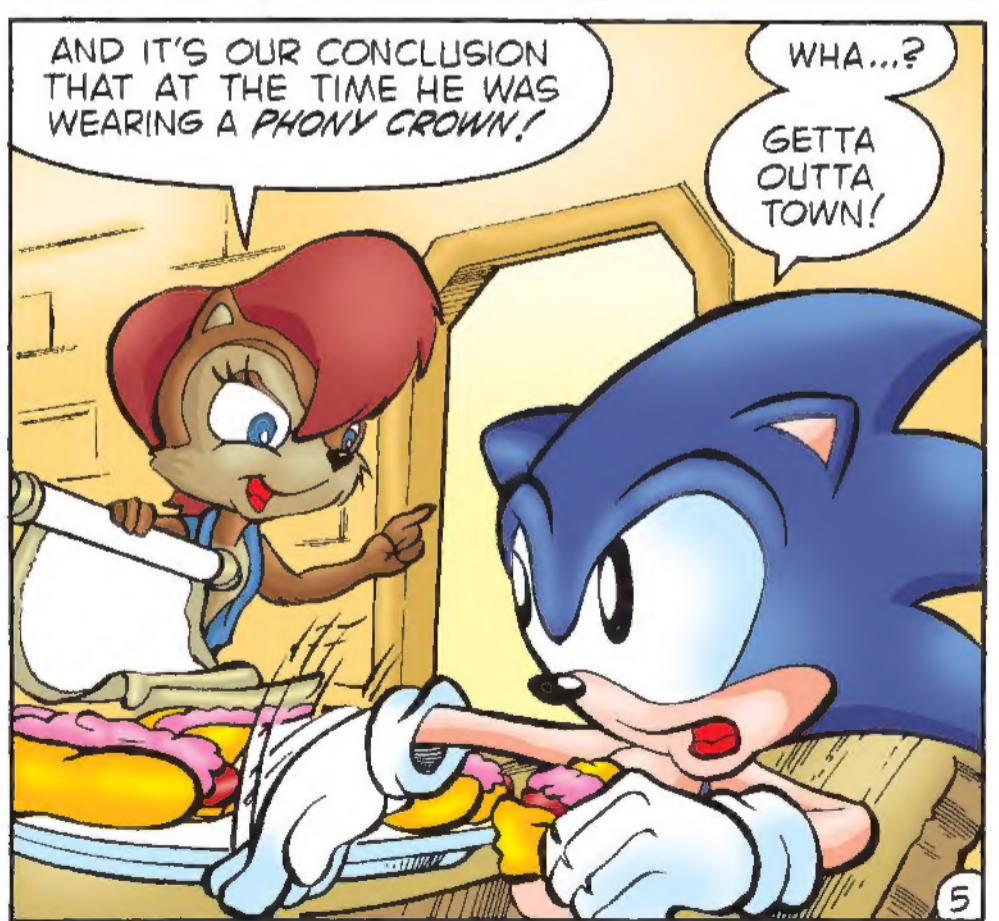
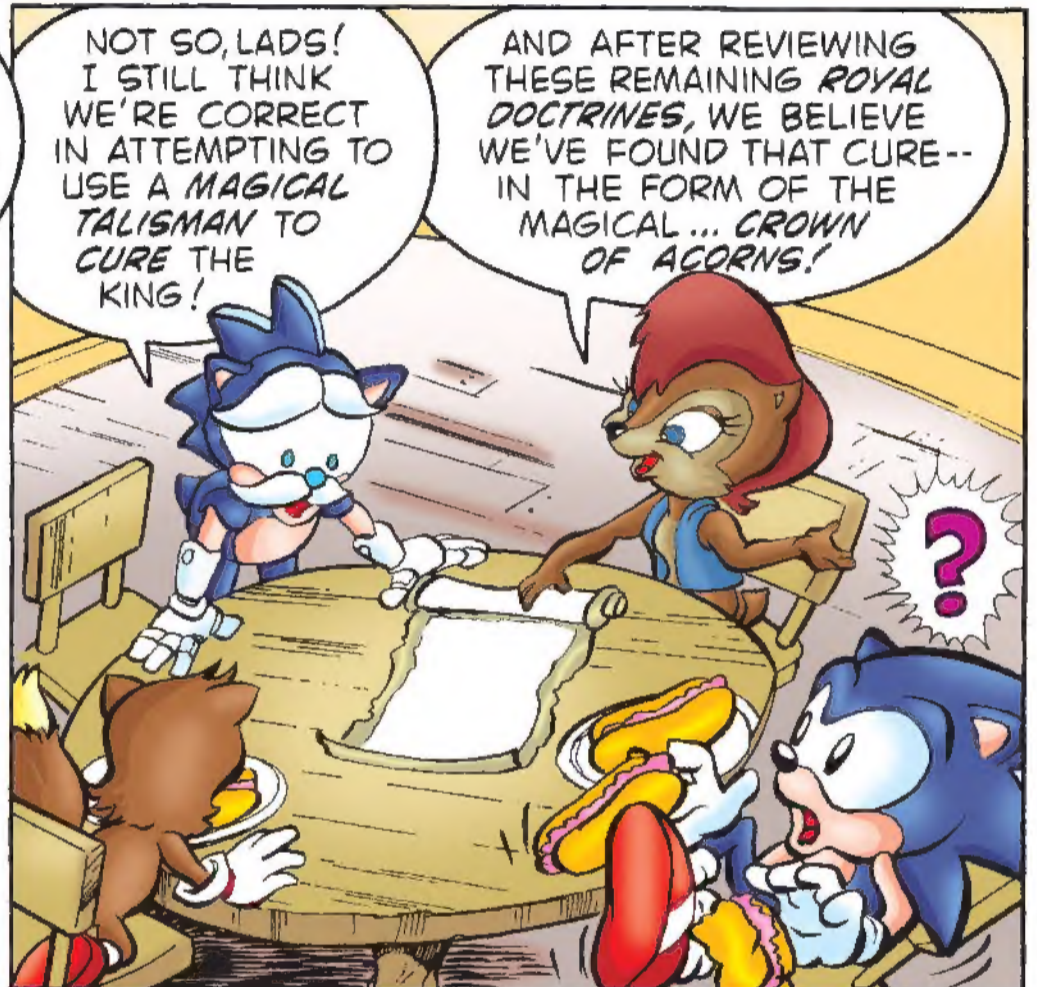
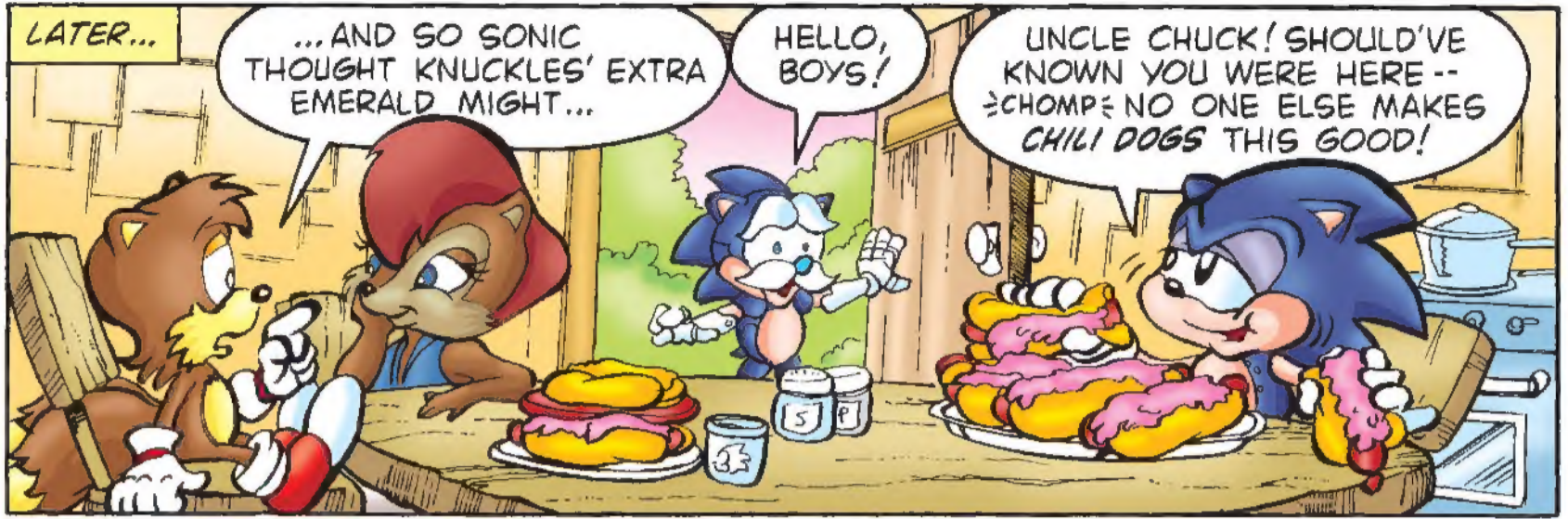


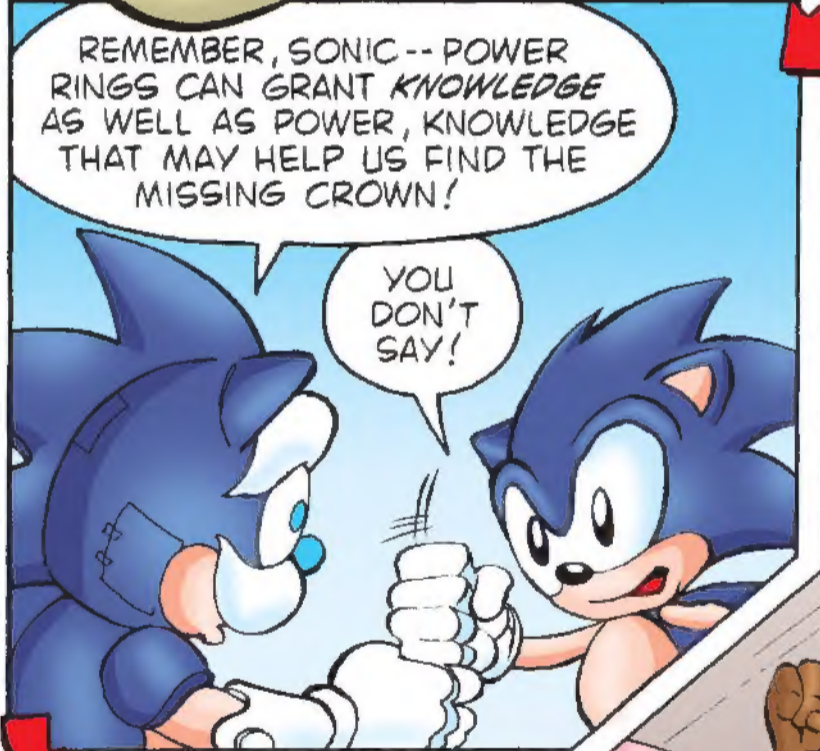
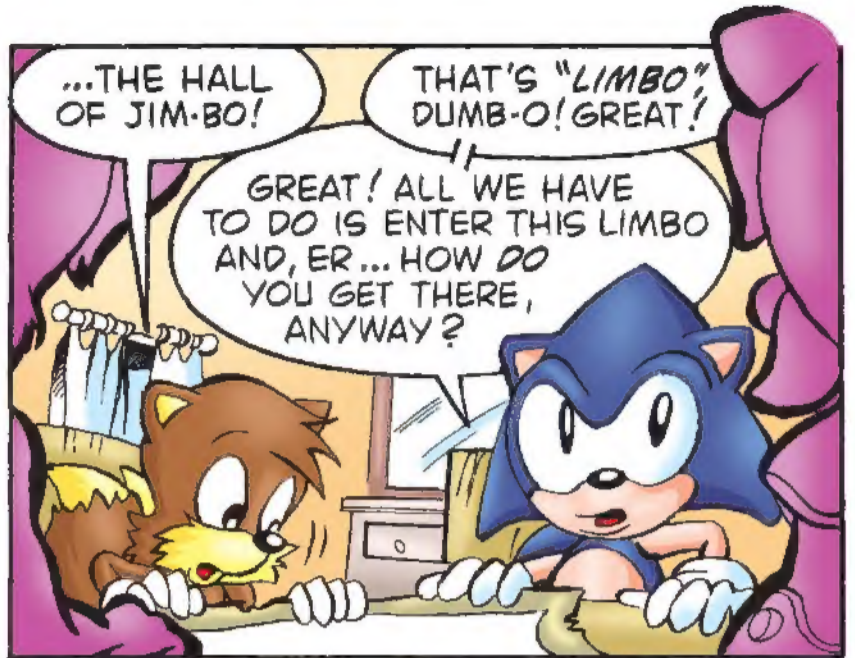
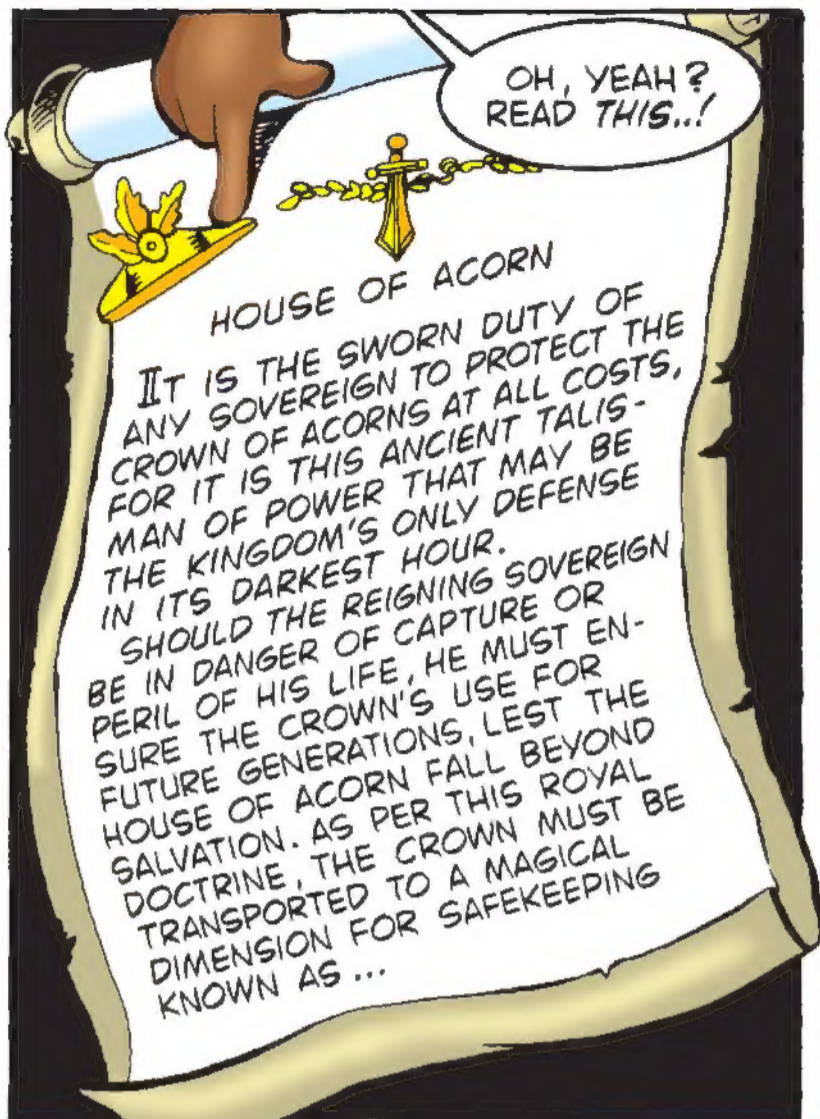
SONIC! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU...

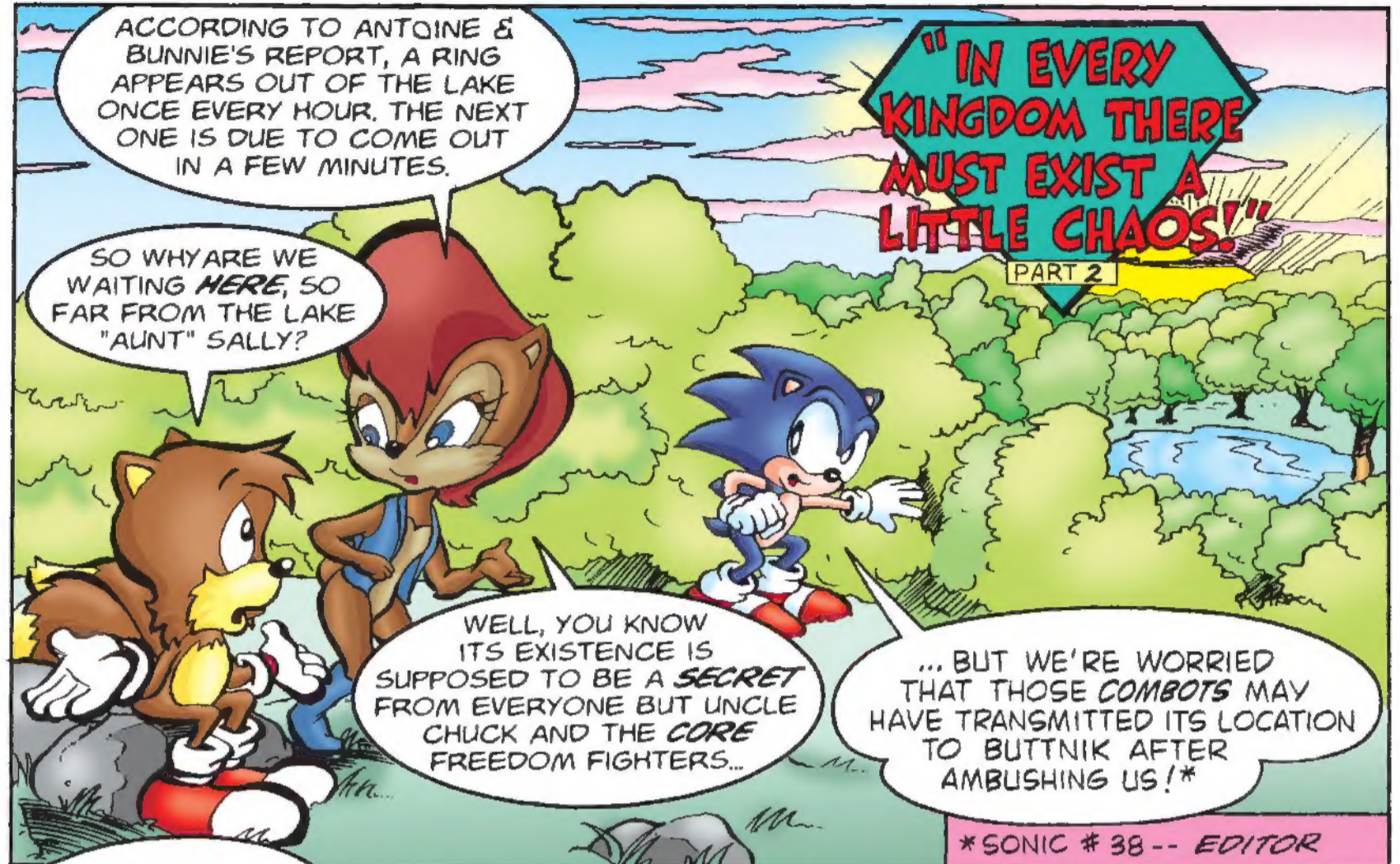
ERR... WHY DON'T YOU SEE IF ROTOR CAN HELP YOUR DAD WITH THESE POWER RINGS WE CAUGHT** WHILE I FEED OUR "CONQUERING HERO"!

WAIT'LL I GET YOU OUTSIDE, BLABBER-MOUTH!

** AGAIN, SONICQUEST -- HINT! HINT!-- EDITOR







ACCORDING TO ANTOINE & BUNNIE'S REPORT, A RING APPEARS OUT OF THE LAKE ONCE EVERY HOUR. THE NEXT ONE IS DUE TO COME OUT IN A FEW MINUTES.

"IN EVERY KINGDOM THERE MUST EXIST A LITTLE CHAOS!"

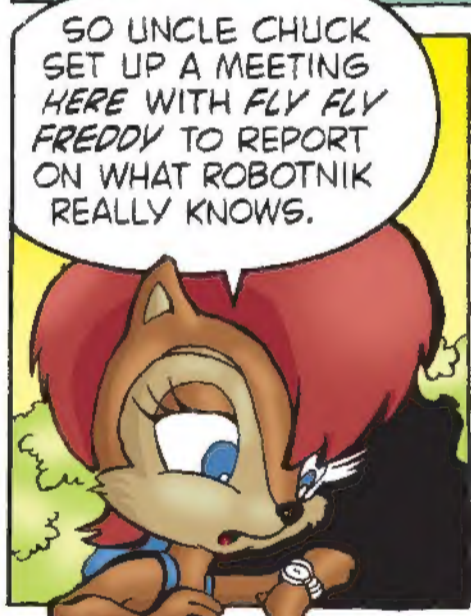
PART 2

SO WHY ARE WE WAITING *HERE*, SO FAR FROM THE LAKE "AUNT" SALLY?

WELL, YOU KNOW ITS EXISTENCE IS SUPPOSED TO BE A *SECRET* FROM EVERYONE BUT UNCLE CHUCK AND THE *CORE* FREEDOM FIGHTERS...

... BUT WE'RE WORRIED THAT THOSE *COMBOTS* MAY HAVE TRANSMITTED ITS LOCATION TO BUTTNIK AFTER AMBUSHING US!*

*SONIC # 38 -- EDITOR



SO UNCLE CHUCK SET UP A MEETING *HERE* WITH FLY FLY FREDDY TO REPORT ON WHAT ROBOTNIK REALLY KNOWS.



THE *SPY NETWORK*** SHOULD KNOW THE SCORE...



... PROVIDING FRED EVER GETS *HERE*...
=WHOA=
SLEUTH! WHAT'RE YOU DOING *HERE*?

SORRY TO STARTLE YOU! FRED'S COVER WAS ALMOST *BLOWN*, BUT I WAS ABLE TO LEAVE ROBOTROPOLIS SAFELY!

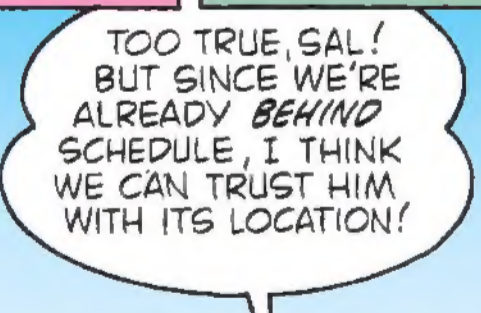
**LAST SEEN IN SONIC#38 -EDITOR



LET ME DETAIL *HIS* REPORT WHILE WE HEAD OVER TO THE LAKE!

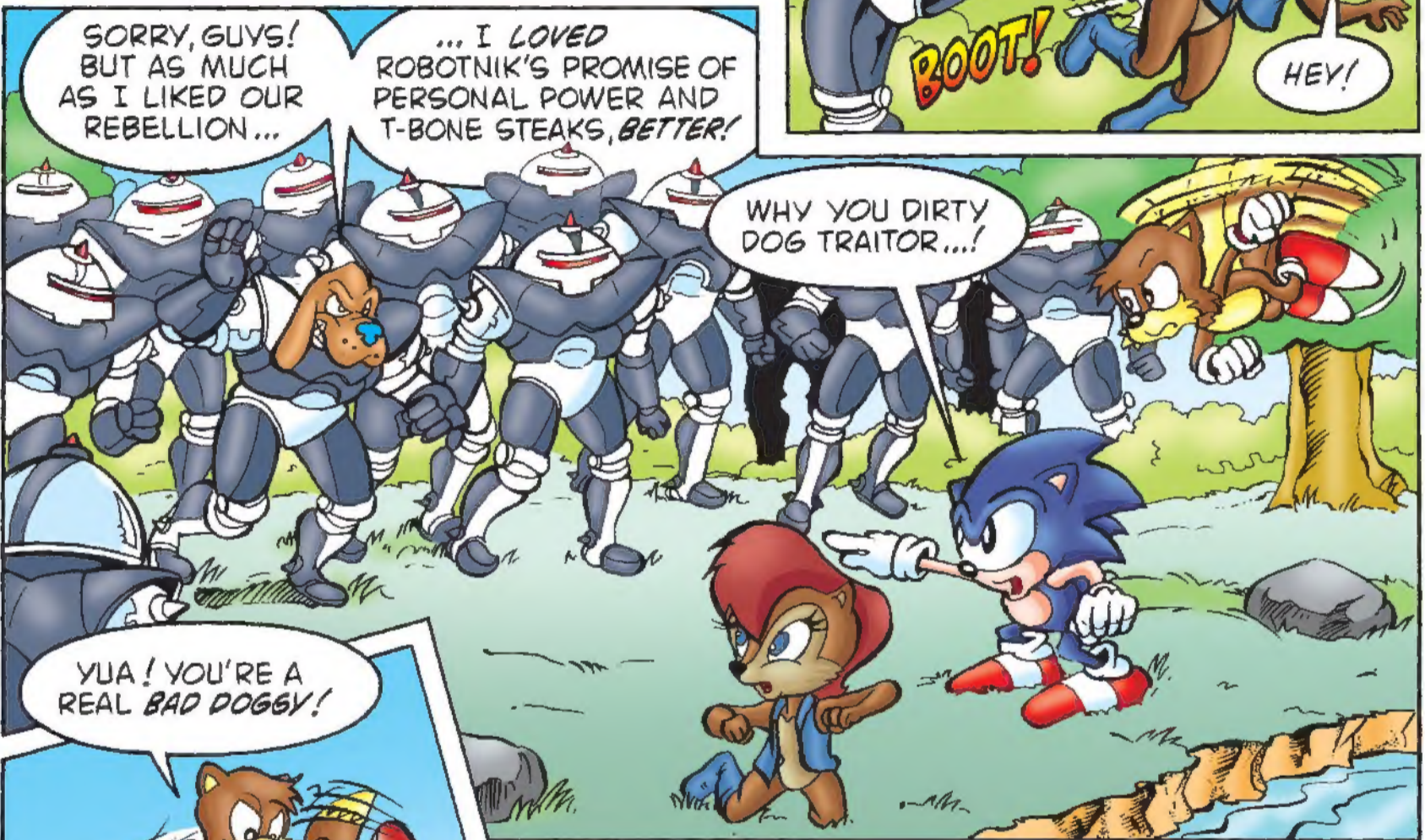
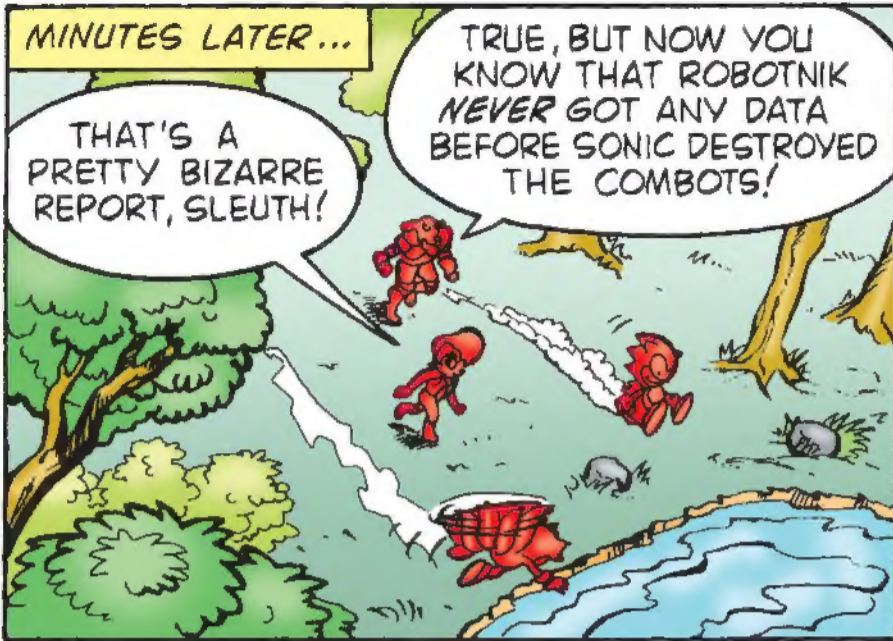


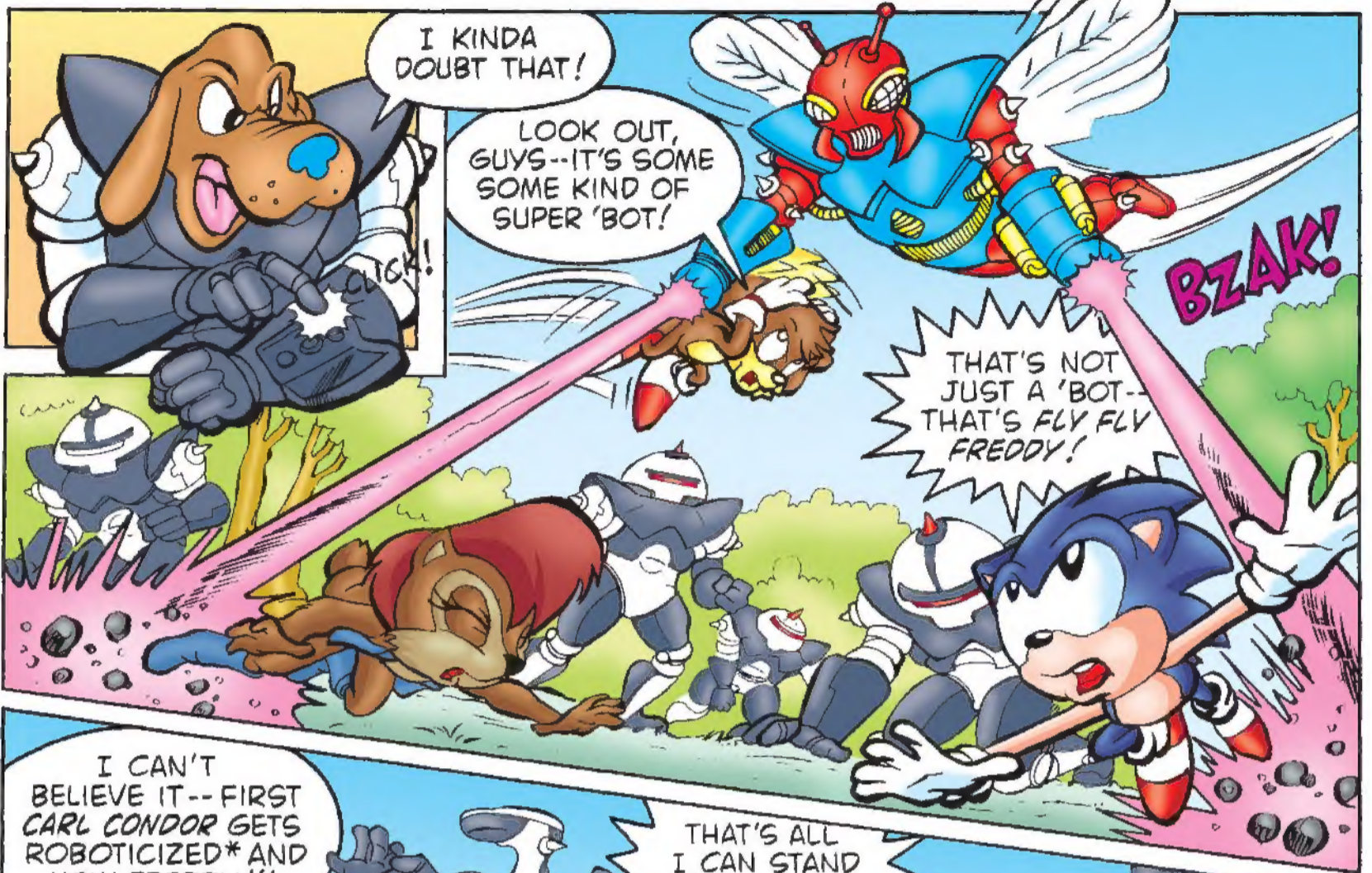
THIS ISN'T STANDARD PROCEDURE, SOLDIER!



TOO TRUE, SAL! BUT SINCE WE'RE ALREADY *BEHIND* SCHEDULE, I THINK WE CAN TRUST HIM WITH ITS LOCATION!







I KINDA DOUBT THAT!

LOOK OUT, GUYS--IT'S SOME SOME KIND OF SUPER 'BOT!

THAT'S NOT JUST A 'BOT-- THAT'S FLY FLY FREDDY!

BZAK!



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT-- FIRST CARL CONDOR GETS ROBOTICIZED* AND NOW FREDDY!!!

THAT'S ALL I CAN STAND 'CAUSE I CAN'T STAND NO MORE!

*SONICQUEST #1--EDITOR

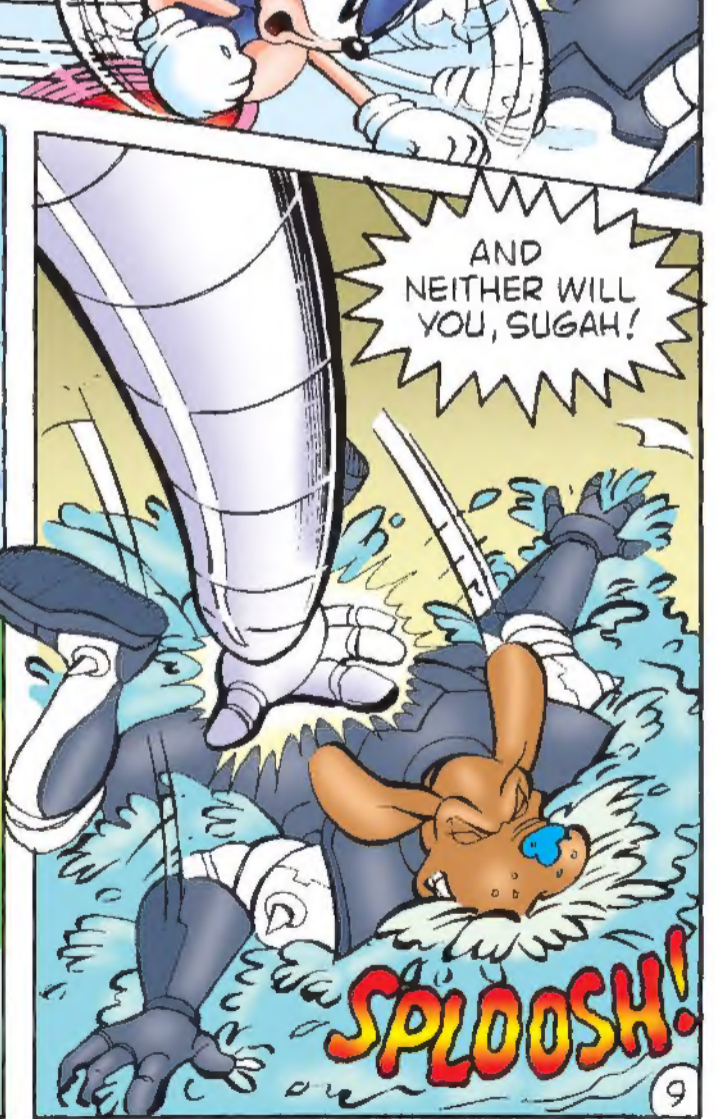


THAT'S RIGHT!

IN A FEW SECONDS YOU WON'T BE STANDING AT ALL!

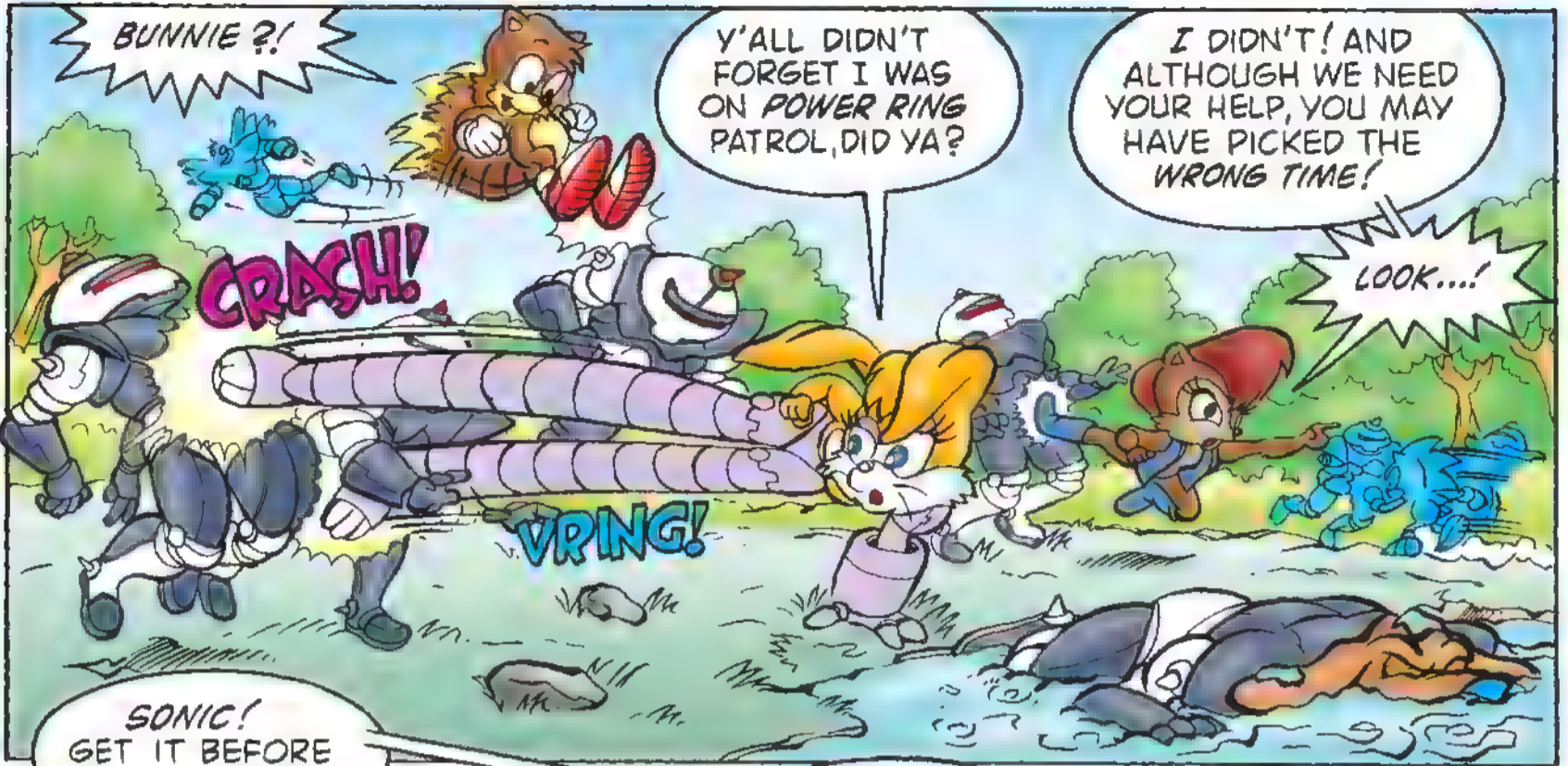
ZOOM!
ZOOM!

KA-BLOOGE!



AND NEITHER WILL YOU, SUGAH!

SPLOOSH!



BUNNIE?!

Y'ALL DIDN'T FORGET I WAS ON POWER RING PATROL, DID YA?

I DIDN'T! AND ALTHOUGH WE NEED YOUR HELP, YOU MAY HAVE PICKED THE WRONG TIME!

CRASH!

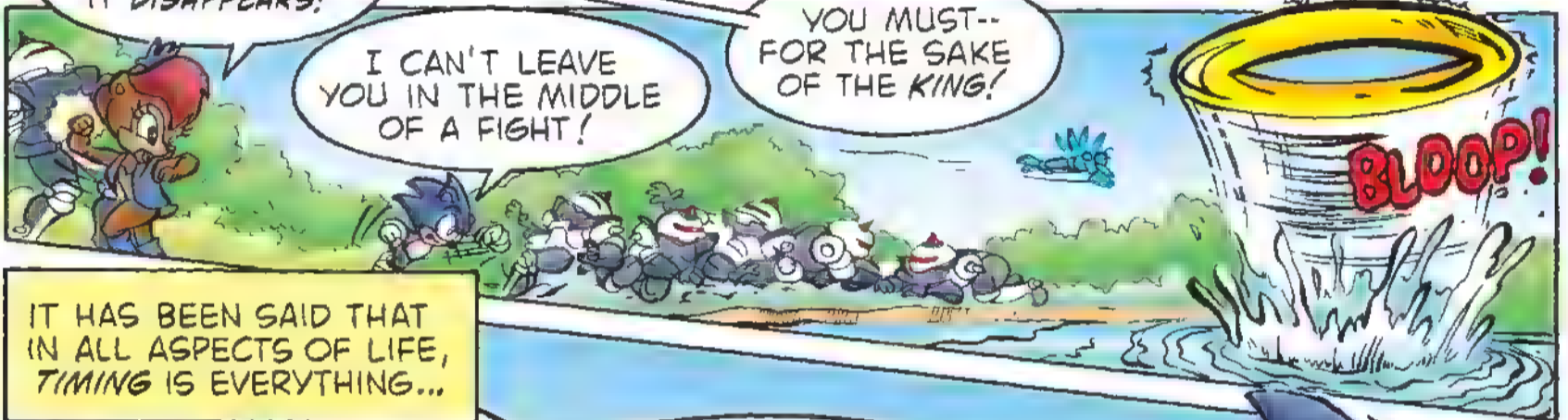
VRING!

LOOK...!

SONIC! GET IT BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS!

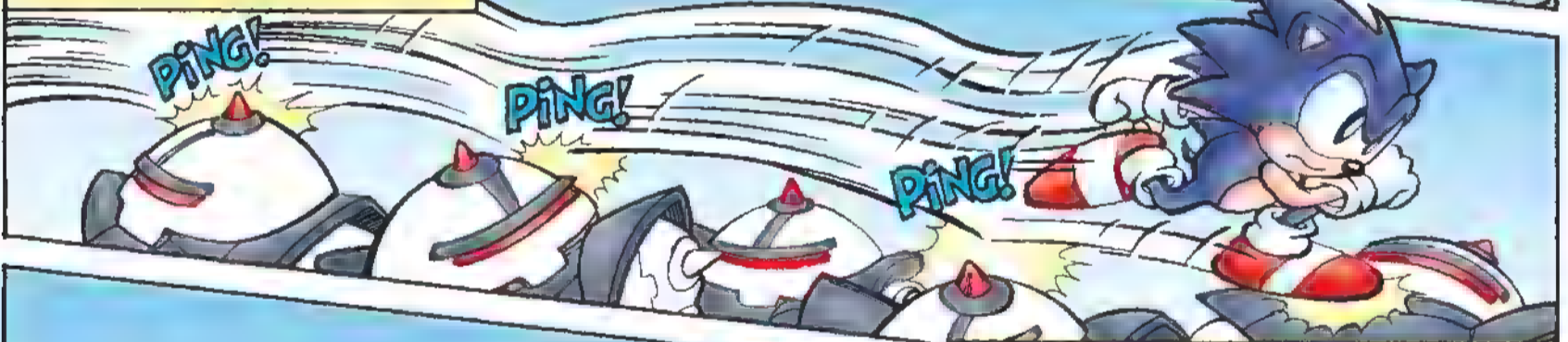
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT!

YOU MUST-- FOR THE SAKE OF THE KING!



BLOOP!

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE, TIMING IS EVERYTHING...



PING!

PING!

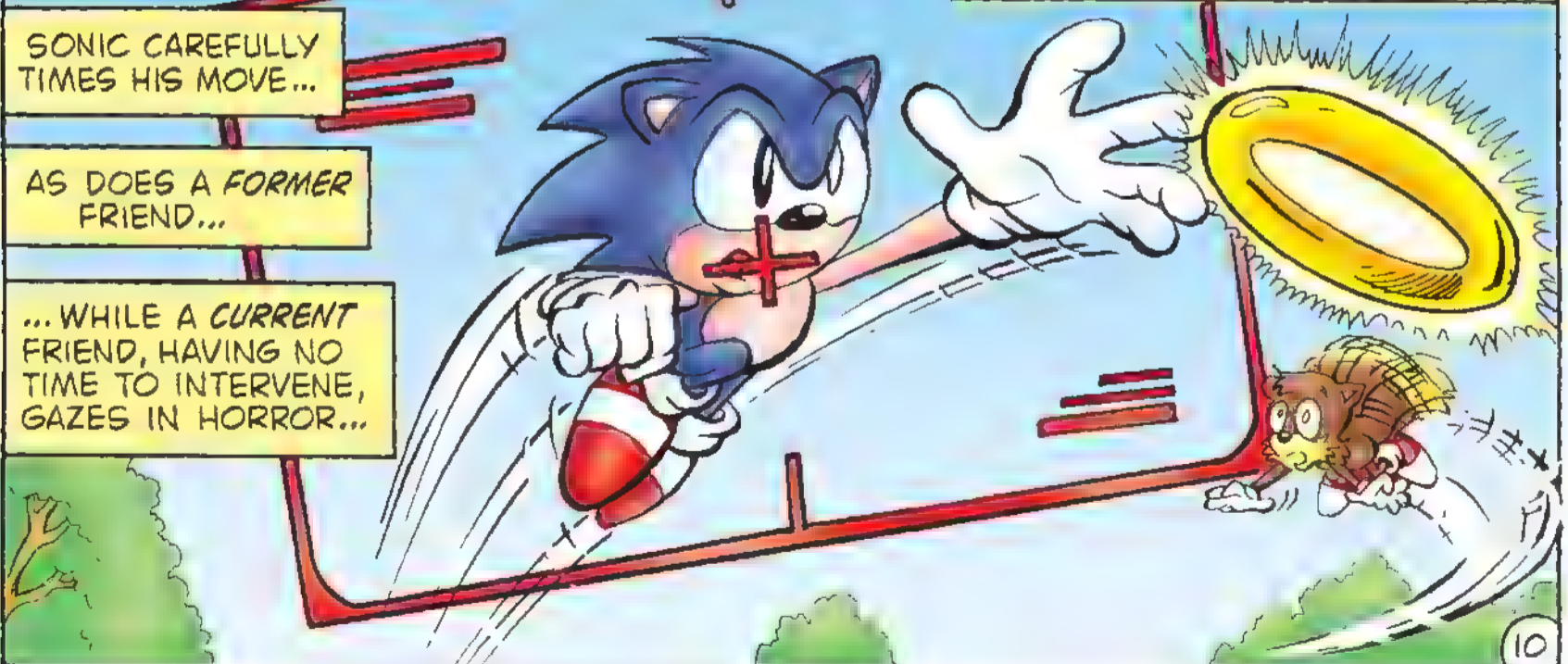
PING!

... AND IN THE COURSE OF A SPLIT SECOND, THREE THINGS HAPPEN

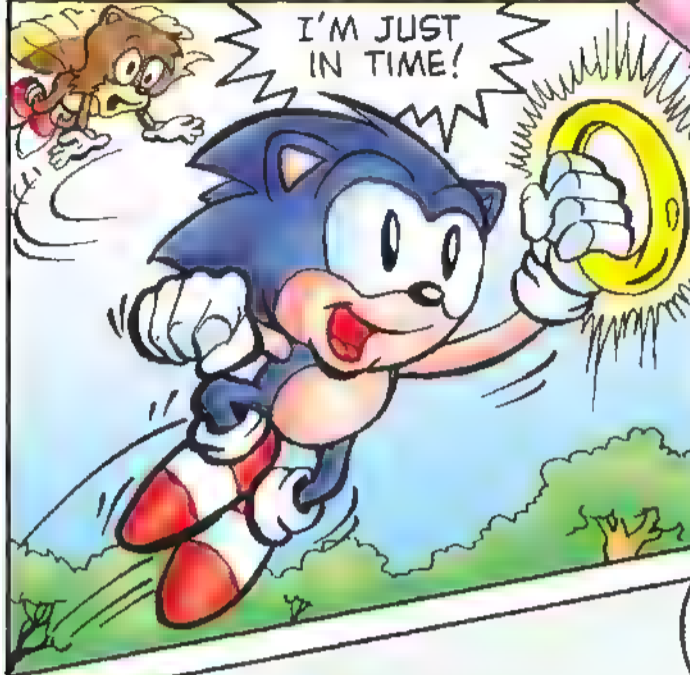
SONIC CAREFULLY TIMES HIS MOVE...

AS DOES A FORMER FRIEND...

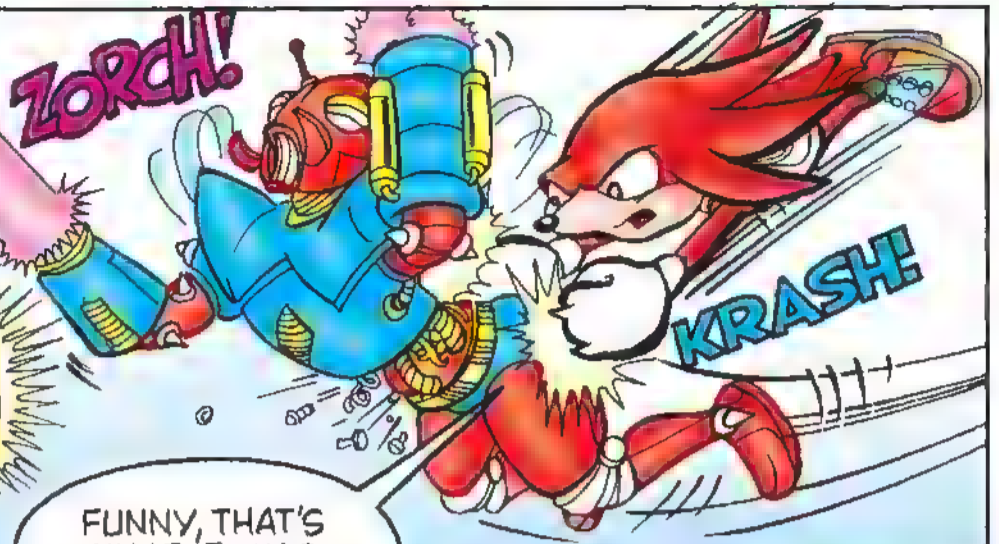
... WHILE A CURRENT FRIEND, HAVING NO TIME TO INTERVENE, GAZES IN HORROR...



THANKFULLY, THE DAWNING OF A NEW FRIENDSHIP IS WELL-TIMED FOR THE NEXT SECOND WITH SONIC REAPING THE REWARDS!



I'M JUST IN TIME!



ZORCH!

KRASH!

FUNNY, THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY!

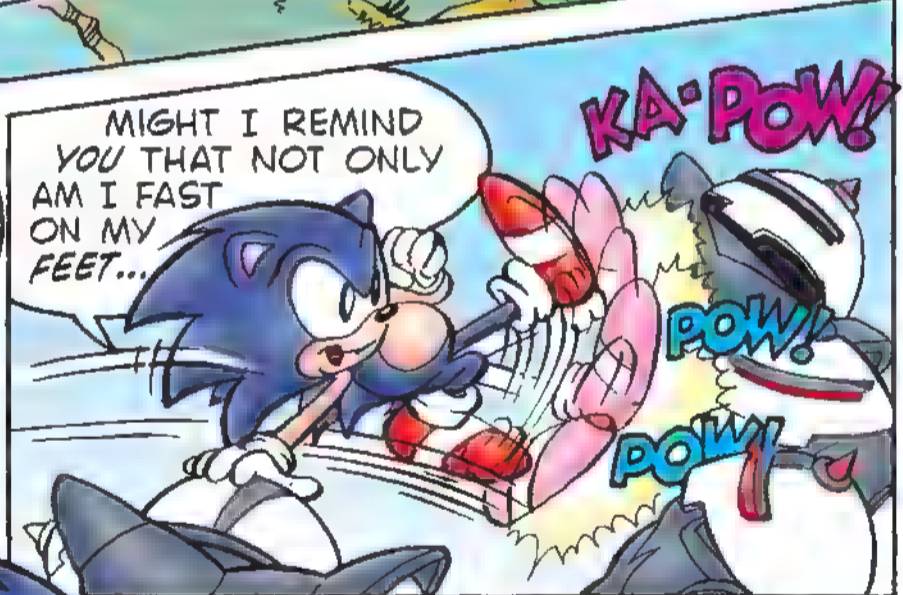


I GUESS IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY-- "ALL GOOD THINGS COME FROM ABOVE!"

I ONCE SAID THAT AND THEN A PIGEON FLEW OVER MY HEAD...!



MIGHT I REMIND YOU COMEDIANS, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF BATTLE?!

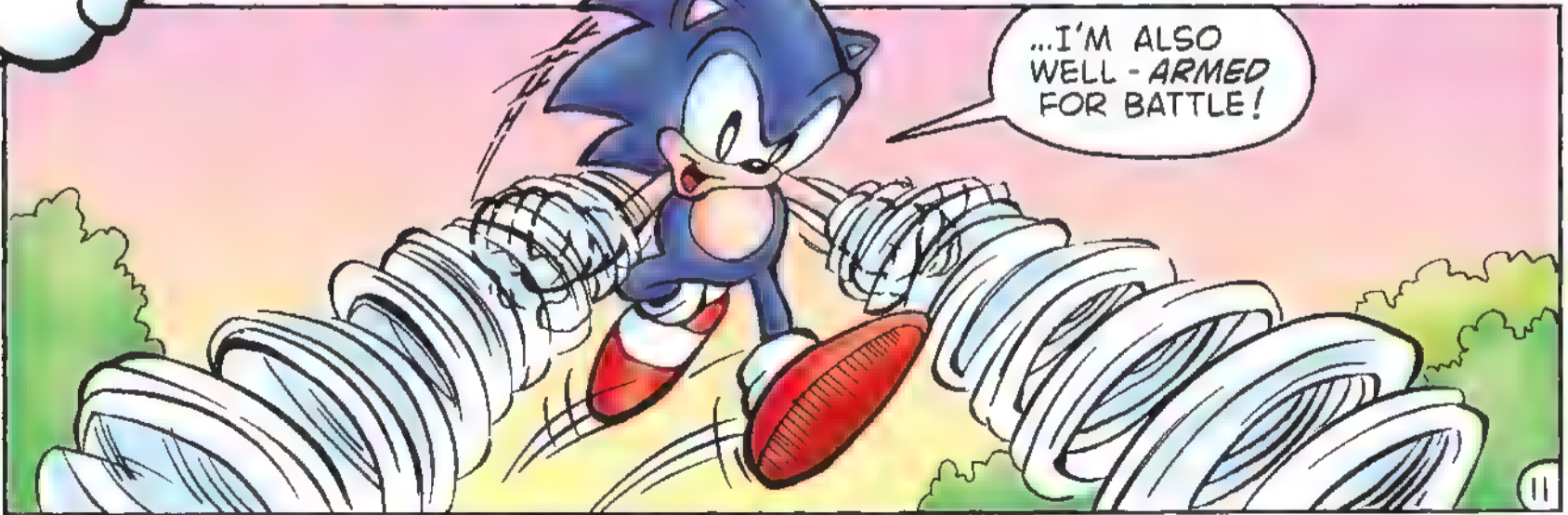


MIGHT I REMIND YOU THAT NOT ONLY AM I FAST ON MY FEET...

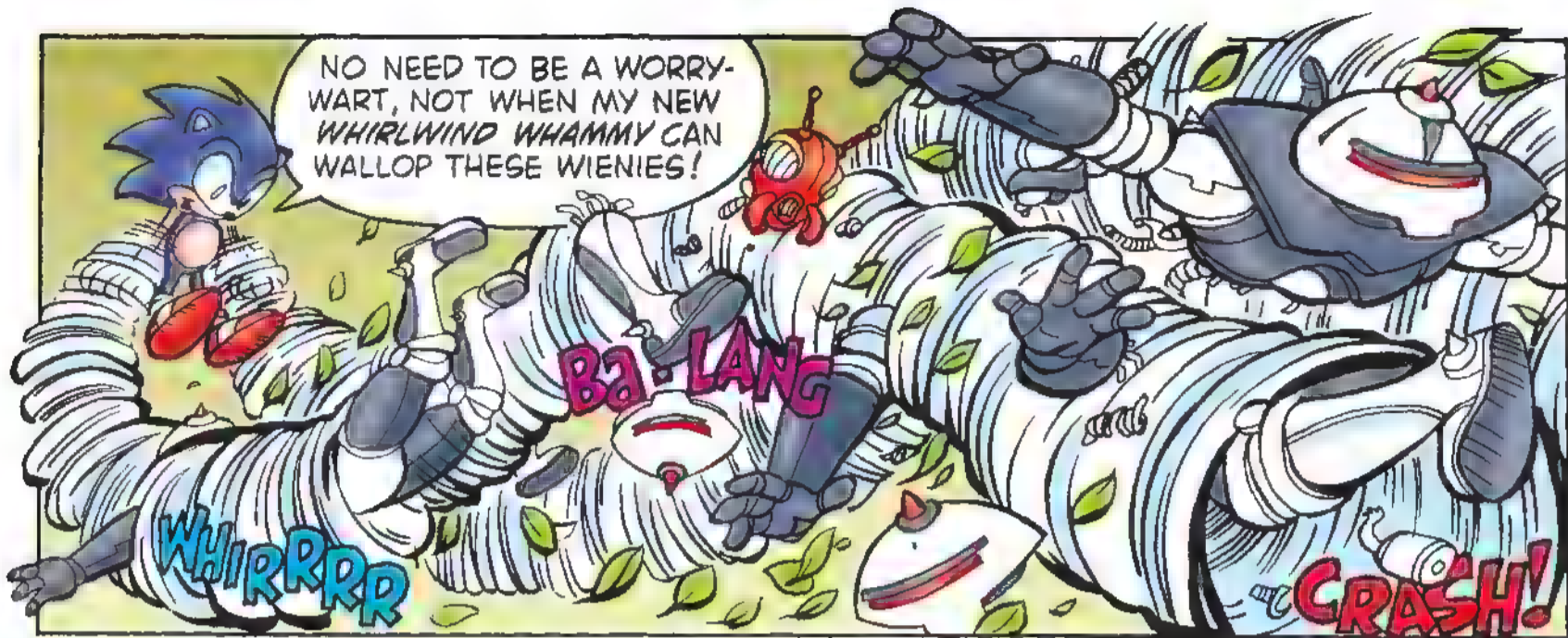
KA-POW!

POW!

POW!



...I'M ALSO WELL-ARMED FOR BATTLE!



NO NEED TO BE A WORRY-WART, NOT WHEN MY NEW WHIRLWIND WHAMMY CAN WALLOP THESE WIENIES!

WHIRRRR

BA-LANG

CRASH!



NEXT TIME, WARN US FIRST, SUGAH HOG!

NICE WORK, GUYS! NOW WE CAN MAKE THIS TRAITOR STAND TRIAL...

...AFTER WE TRY TO RESTORE FRED...

...AND AFTER WE TRY TO RESTORE THE KING!



AFTER ALL, NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT AN ECHIDNA CAN'T HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART!

WOW! SONIC WILL BE FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU SOMETHING BEFORE BLABBER-MOUTH?!



OK, TROOPS, IT'S BACK TO KNOTHOLE--

--OPERATION: SAVE THE KING IS NOW IN PHASE TWO!

END OF PART 2

SO, THIS IS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE ONCE BEAUTIFUL KINGDOM OF ACORN?! WAR SURE LEAVES ITS SCARS!

I'LL GIVE YOU THE NICKEL TOUR LATER!

RIGHT NOW I WANT TO KNOW WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?

"IN EVERY KINGDOM THERE MUST EXIST A LITTLE CHAOS!"

PART 3

THAT WAS MY DOING, SONIC!

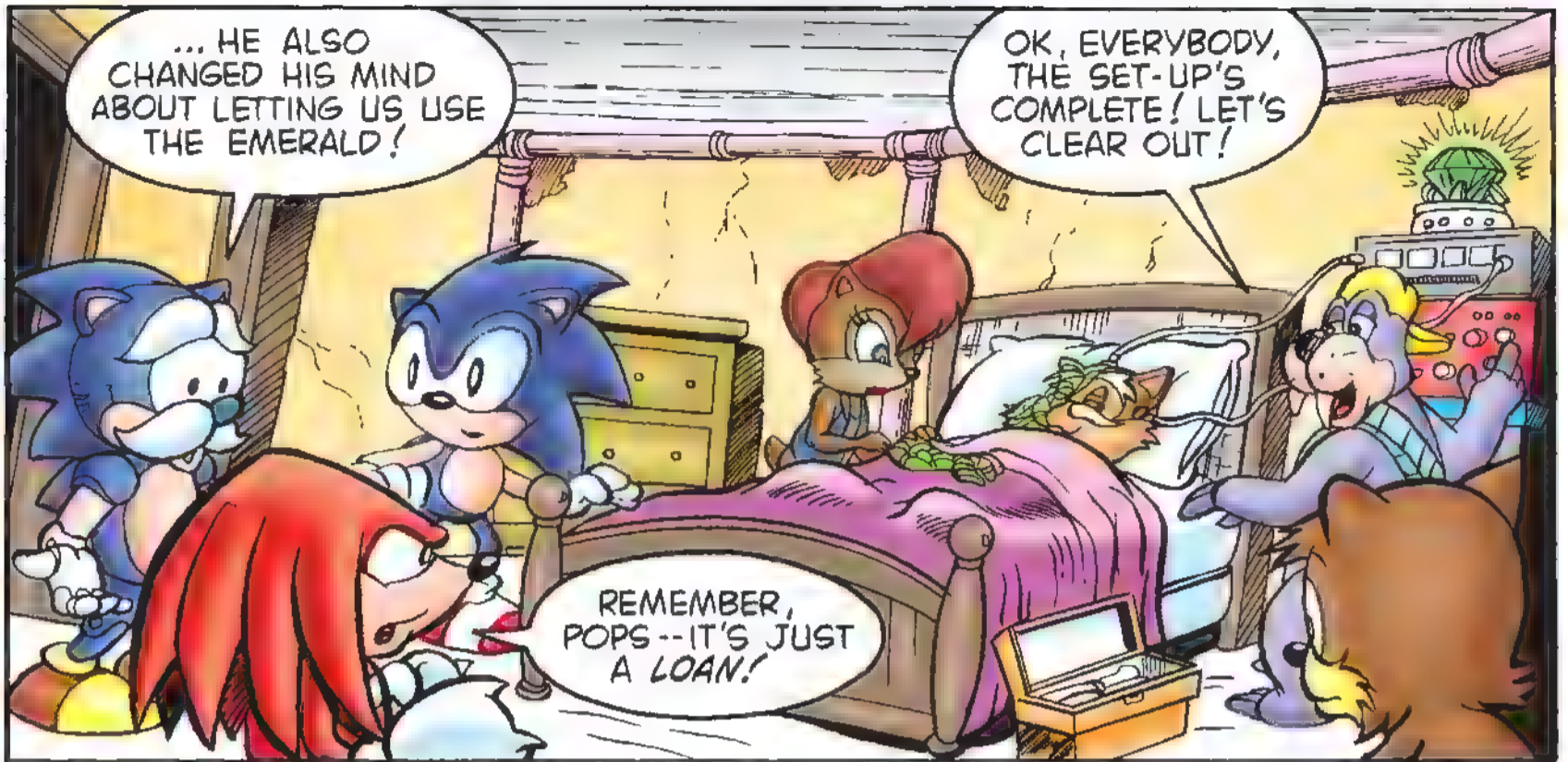
"FOR SOME TIME I'VE SUSPECTED THERE MAY BE A **DOUBLE AGENT** IN OUR SPY NETWORK..."

"... AND MY FEARS WERE CONFIRMED WHEN **FRED** FAILED TO REPORT FOR ORDERS..."

"NOT KNOWING WHO I COULD NOW TRUST, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO CALL ON **OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**..."

"USING AN **OUTDATED AND UNTRACEABLE** FREQUENCY, I RADIOED **KNUCKLES**..."

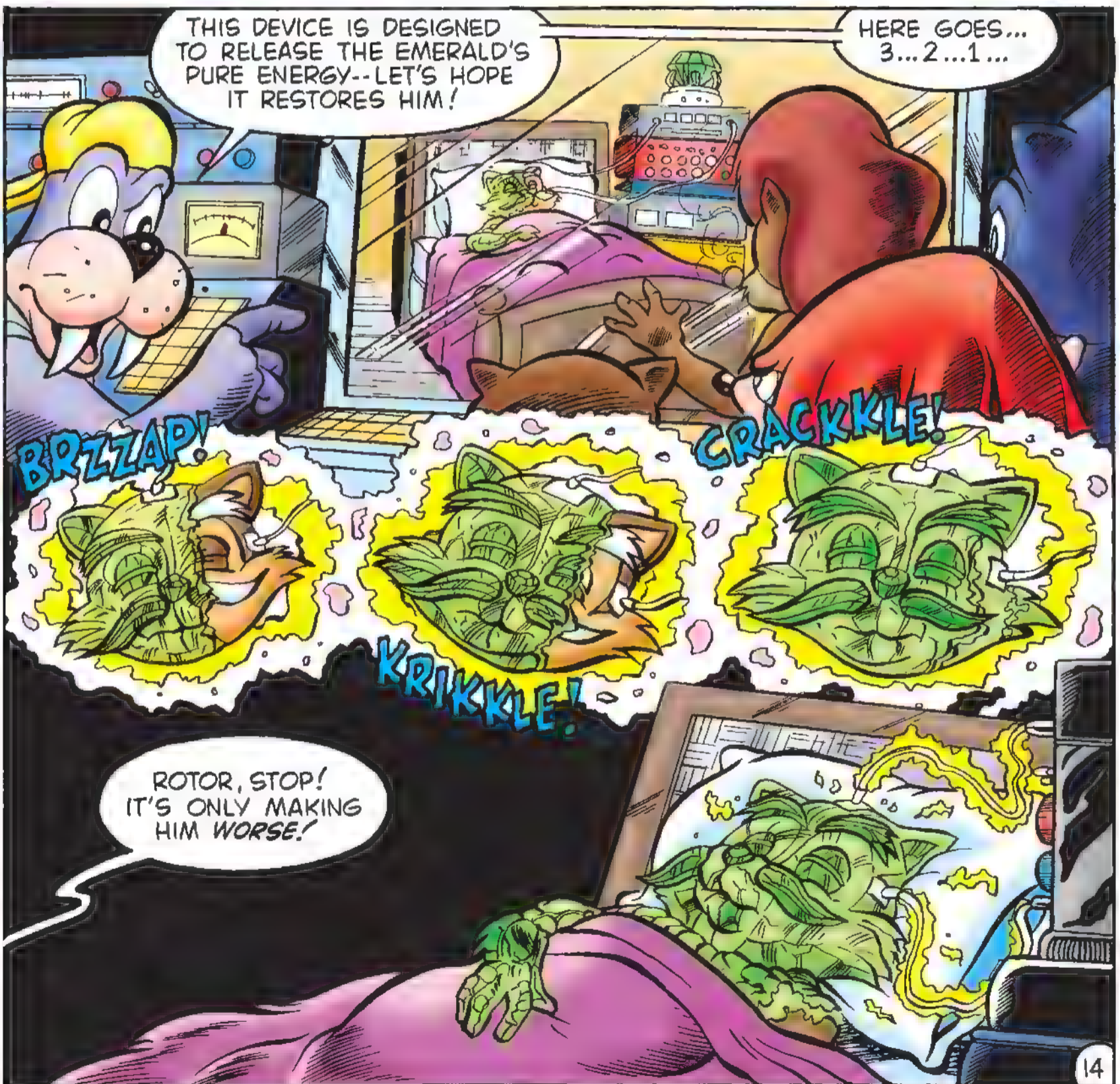
"NOT ONLY DID HE AGREE TO HELP..."



... HE ALSO CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT LETTING US USE THE EMERALD!

OK, EVERYBODY, THE SET-UP'S COMPLETE! LET'S CLEAR OUT!

REMEMBER, POPS--IT'S JUST A LOAN!



THIS DEVICE IS DESIGNED TO RELEASE THE EMERALD'S PURE ENERGY--LET'S HOPE IT RESTORES HIM!

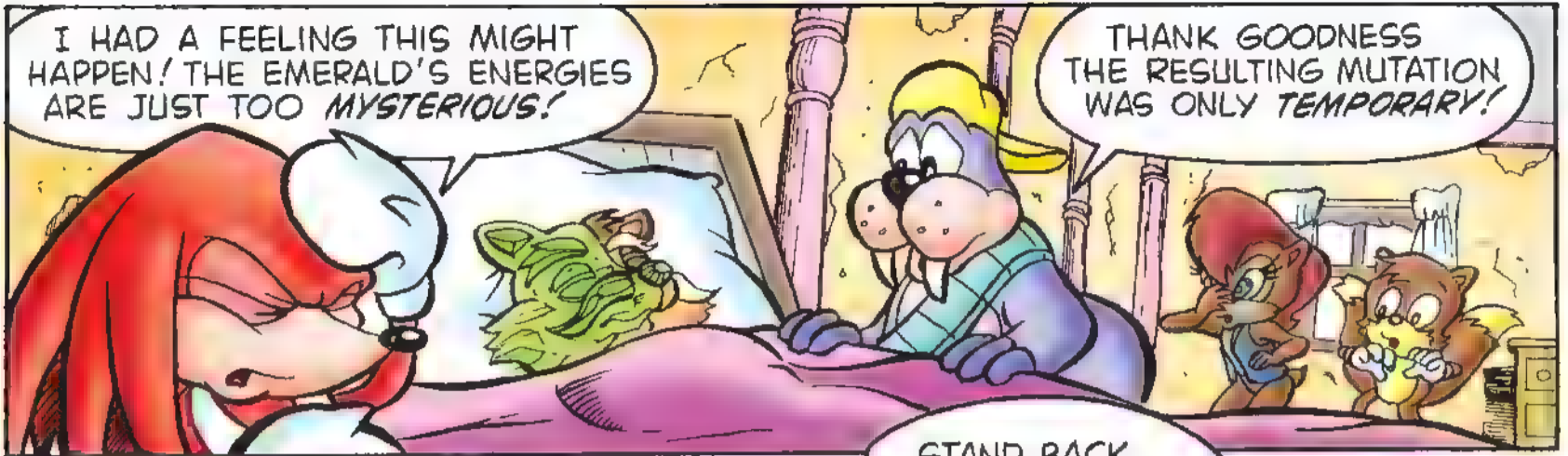
HERE GOES... 3...2...1...

BRZZAP!

CRACKKLE!

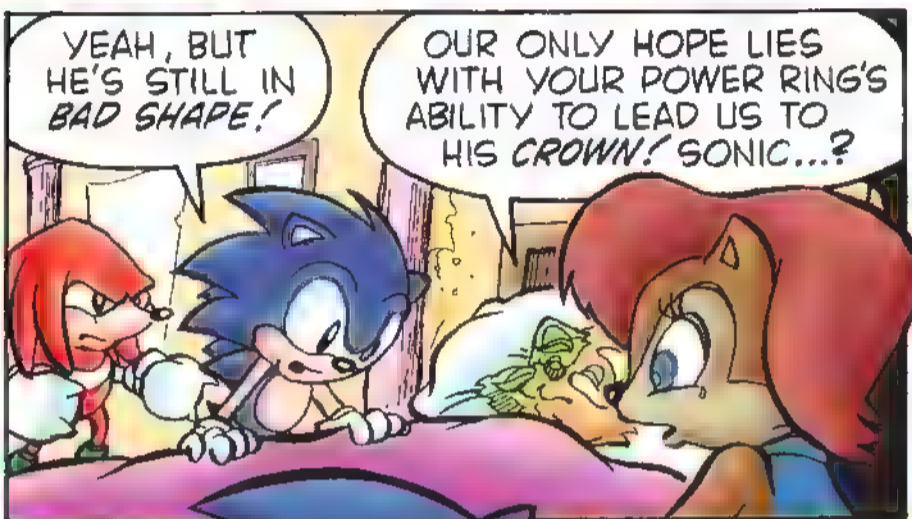
KRIKKLE!

ROTOR, STOP! IT'S ONLY MAKING HIM WORSE!



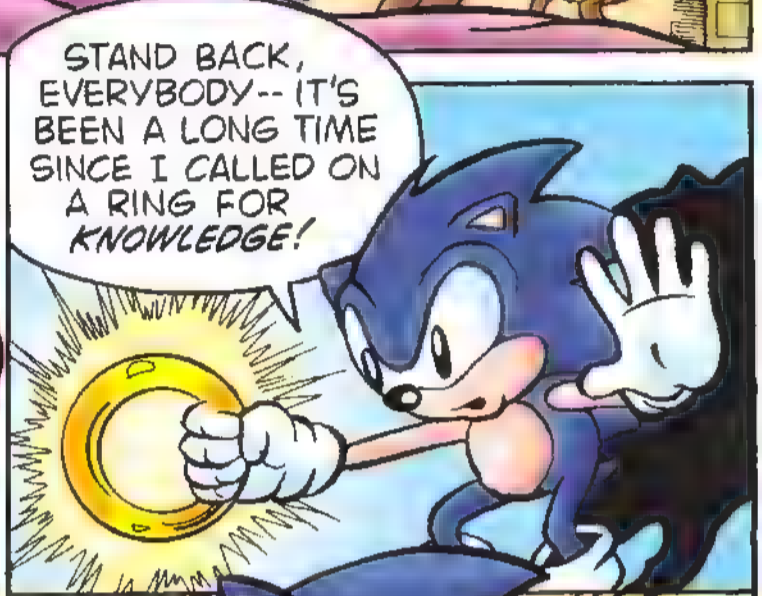
I HAD A FEELING THIS MIGHT HAPPEN! THE EMERALD'S ENERGIES ARE JUST TOO MYSTERIOUS!

THANK GOODNESS THE RESULTING MUTATION WAS ONLY TEMPORARY!



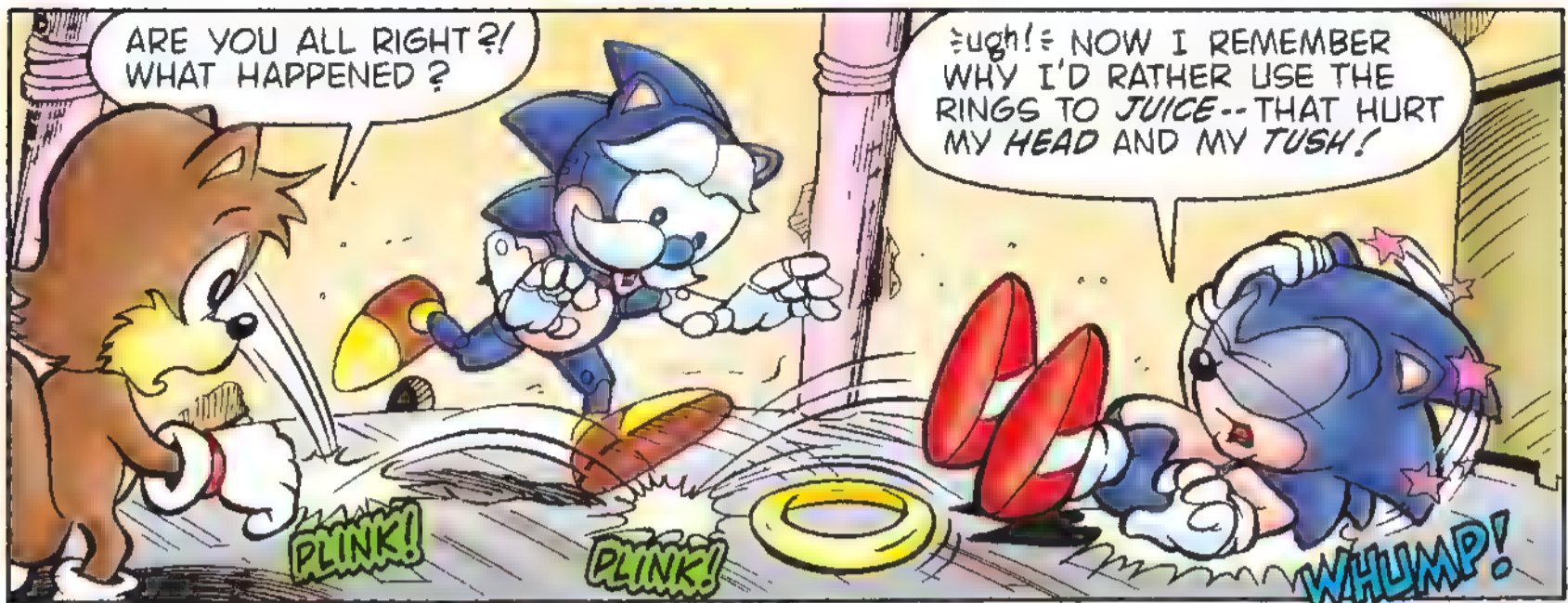
YEAH, BUT HE'S STILL IN BAD SHAPE!

OUR ONLY HOPE LIES WITH YOUR POWER RING'S ABILITY TO LEAD US TO HIS CROWN! SONIC...?



STAND BACK, EVERYBODY-- IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I CALLED ON A RING FOR KNOWLEDGE!





ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
WHAT HAPPENED?

UGH! NOW I REMEMBER
WHY I'D RATHER USE THE
RINGS TO JUICE-- THAT HURT
MY HEAD AND MY TUSH!

PLINK!

PLINK!

WHUMP!



SO, WHERE'S
THE CROWN?
DID YOU FIND
THE HALL OF
LIMBO?

NO! BUT I DID
LEARN THAT THE
KING'S ROYAL SWORD
HAS A MAGICAL
LINK TO THE CROWN,
AND IT WILL LEAD
US TO IT!



BUT THE RIDDLE
WITHIN THE RIDDLE
IS-- WE DON'T KNOW
WHERE THE SWORD
IS!!!

IT'S
HOPELESS!



PRINCESS, YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE TO LOSE YOUR FATHER
TWICE. ONCE IS ENOUGH FOR
ANYONE. I KNOW*-- AND I
WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

*KNUCKLES DOESN'T
KNOW HIS FATHER'S
ALIVE - EDITOR

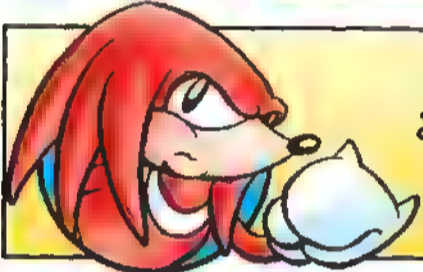


THAT'S WHY I'M MAKING
IT MY PERSONAL QUEST
TO FIND THAT SWORD!

ONE WAY OR THE OTHER
I WILL SEE IT RETURNED
AND THE KING RESTORED!

THIS I
SOLEMNLY
VOW!

KNUCKLES QUEST BEGINS THIS ISSUE!
FLIP THE PAGES AND ENJOY!



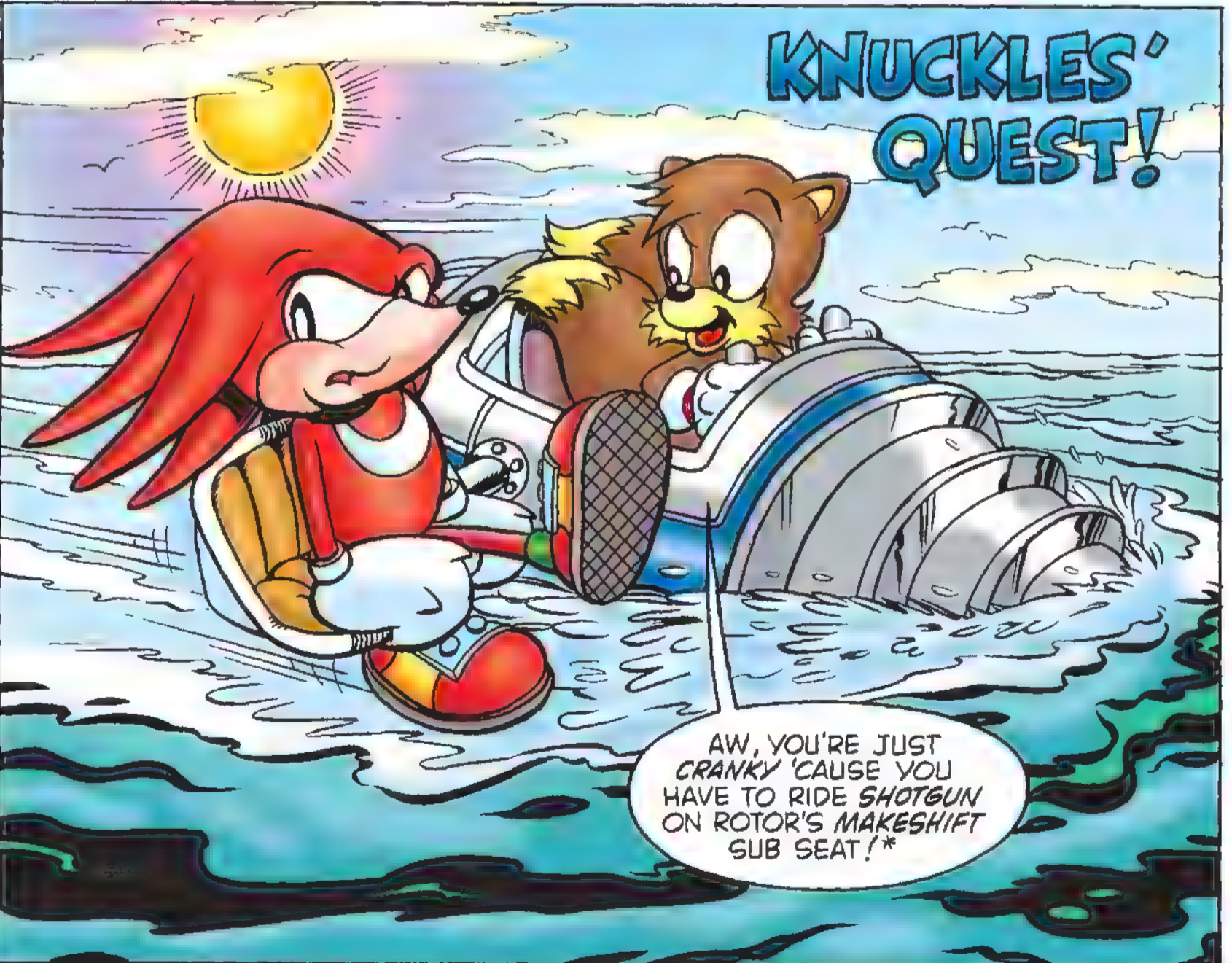
KEN PENDERS
& KENT TAYLOR
WRITERS

ART MAWHINNEY
& BRIAN THOMAS
ARTISTS

MINDY
EISMAN
LETTERER

BARRY
GROSSMAN
COLORIST

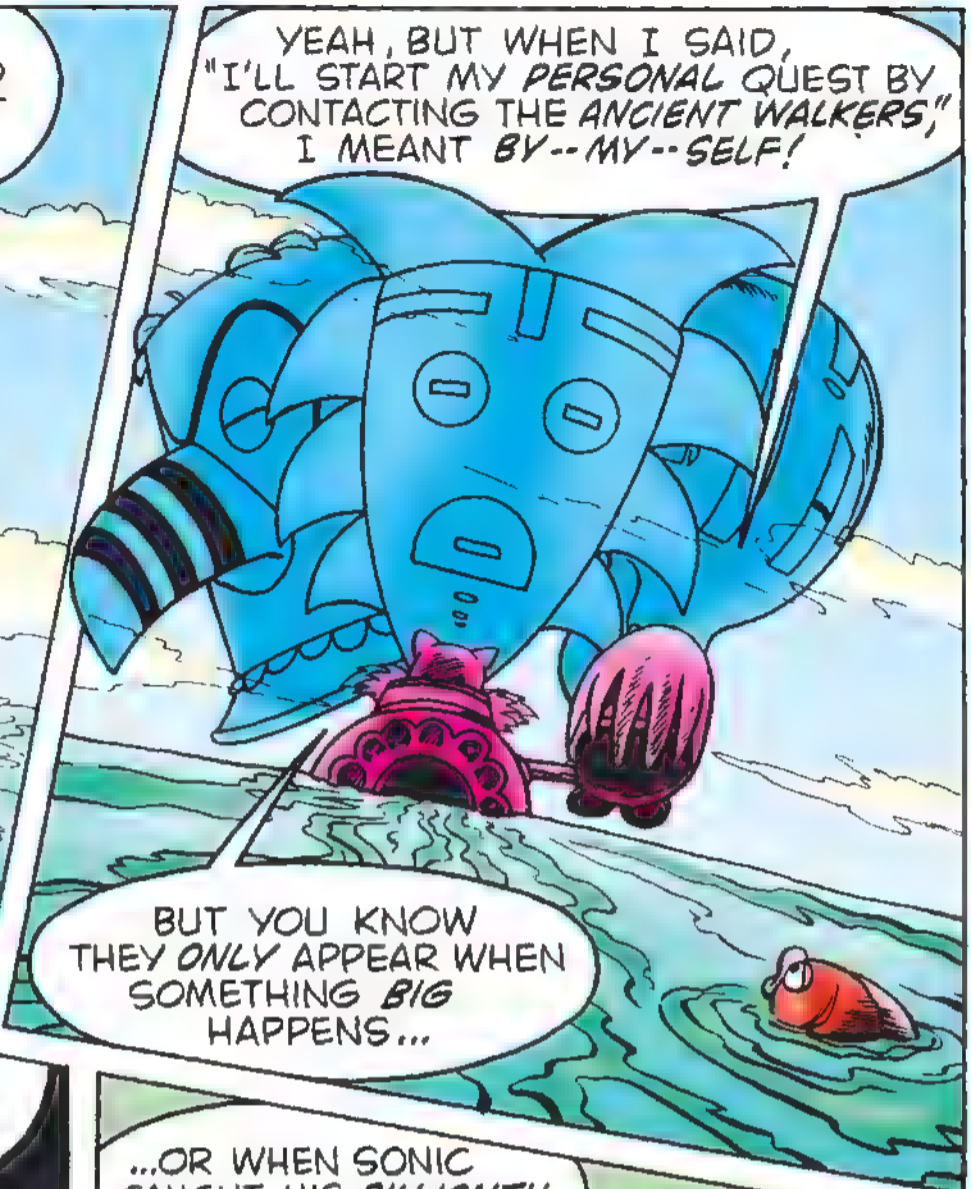
KNUCKLES' QUEST!



*EVERYONE REMEMBER THE SEA FOX FROM TAILS' MINI-SERIES? -EDITOR



BESIDES, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID, "IF I'M GOING TO FIND A MAGIC SWORD, I BETTER START BY REACHING OUT TO A GREAT SOURCE OF MAGIC!"



YEAH, BUT WHEN I SAID, "I'LL START MY PERSONAL QUEST BY CONTACTING THE ANCIENT WALKERS," I MEANT BY--MY--SELF!

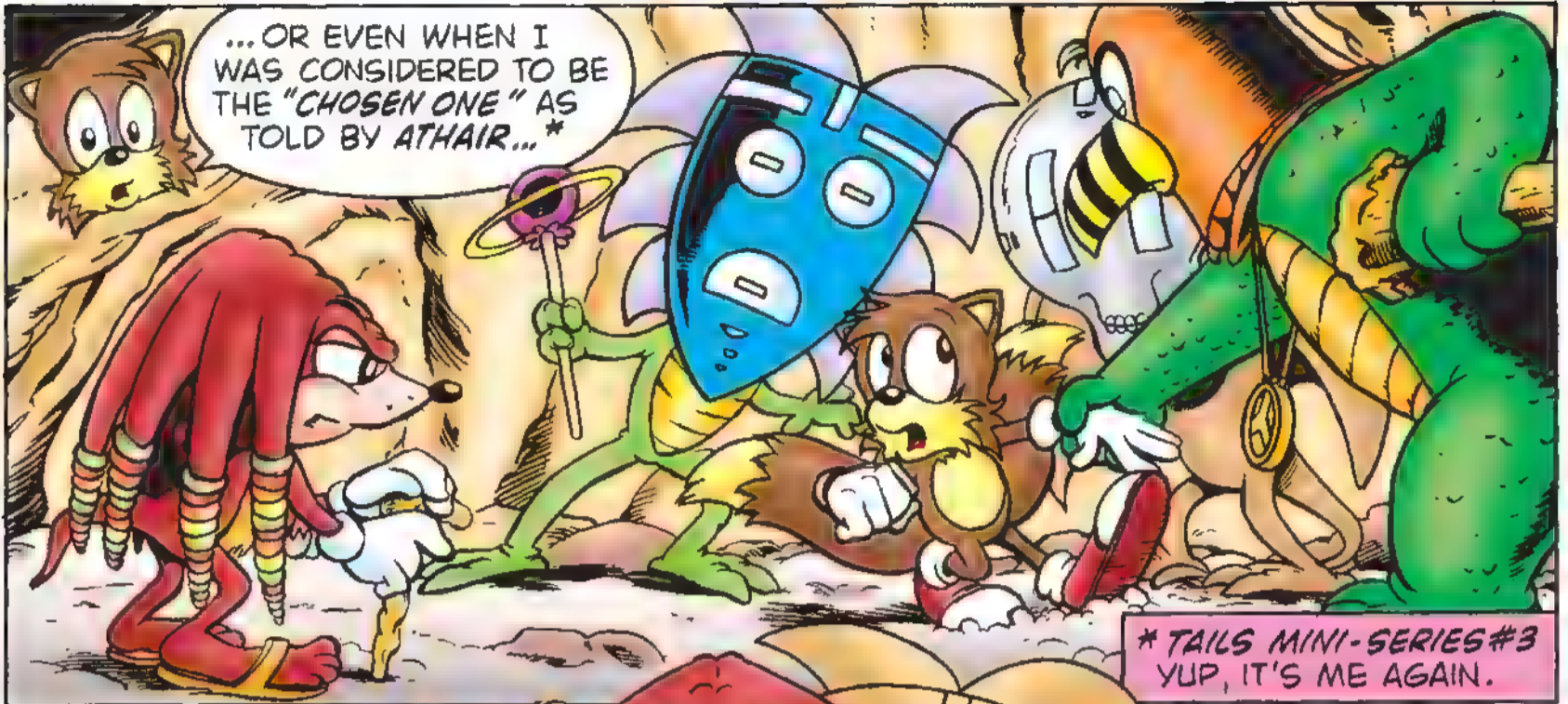
BUT YOU KNOW THEY ONLY APPEAR WHEN SOMETHING BIG HAPPENS...



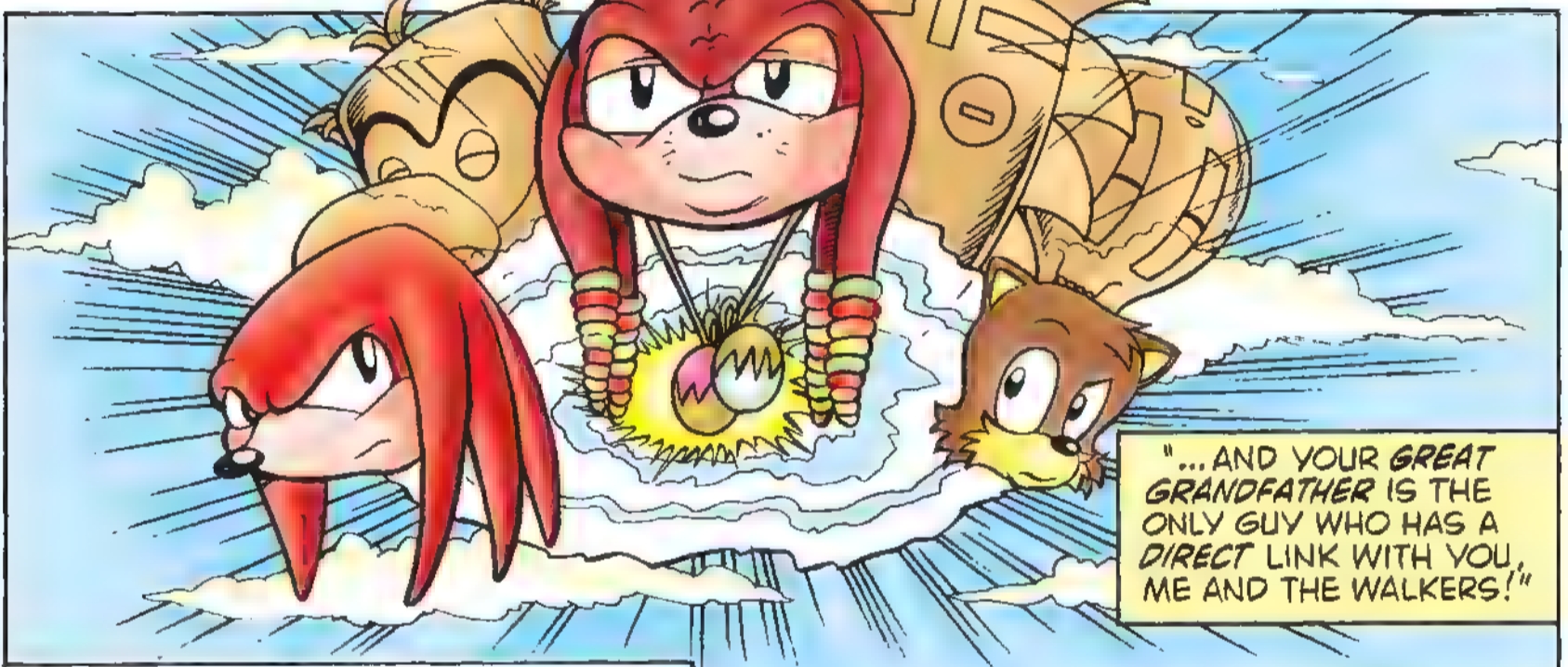
...LIKE THE TIME YOU THOUGHT YOU WENT TO ECHIDNA HEAVEN...*



...OR WHEN SONIC CAUGHT HIS BILLIONTH POWER RING...*



*TAILS MINI-SERIES #3
YUP, IT'S ME AGAIN.



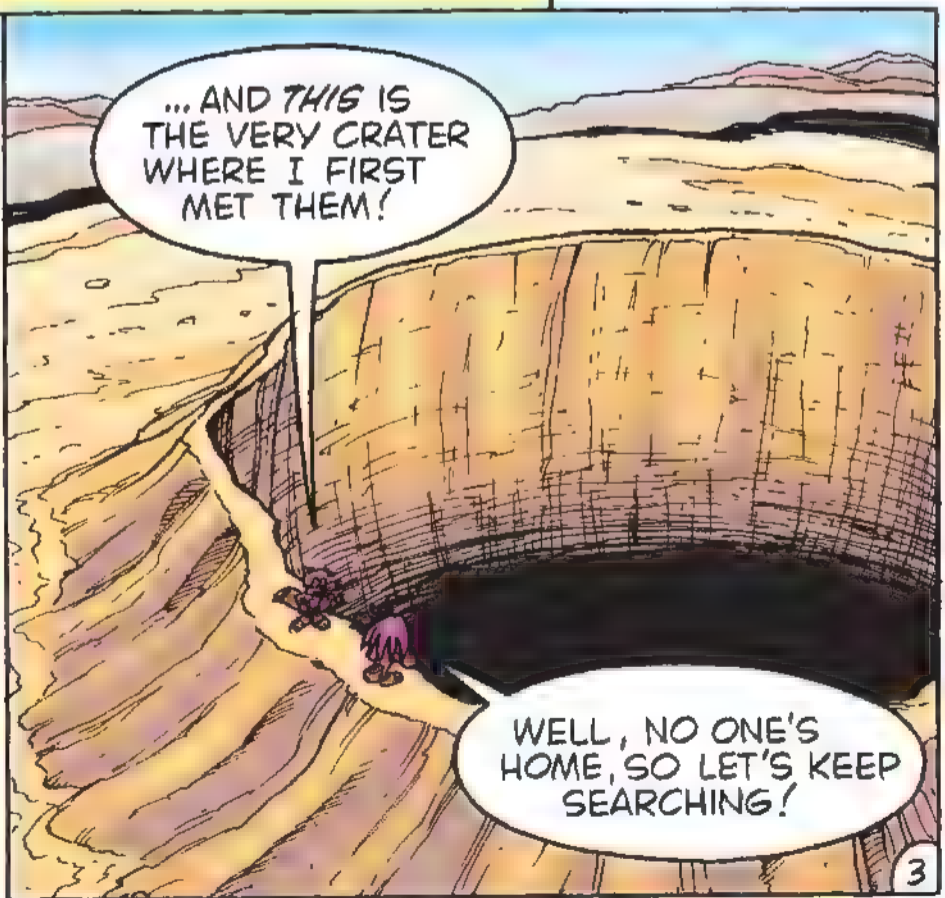
"...AND YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER IS THE ONLY GUY WHO HAS A DIRECT LINK WITH YOU, ME AND THE WALKERS!"



...AND HE WAS LAST SEEN ON...

DOWNUNDA!
LAND HO!

ONE HOUR AFTER DOCKING...



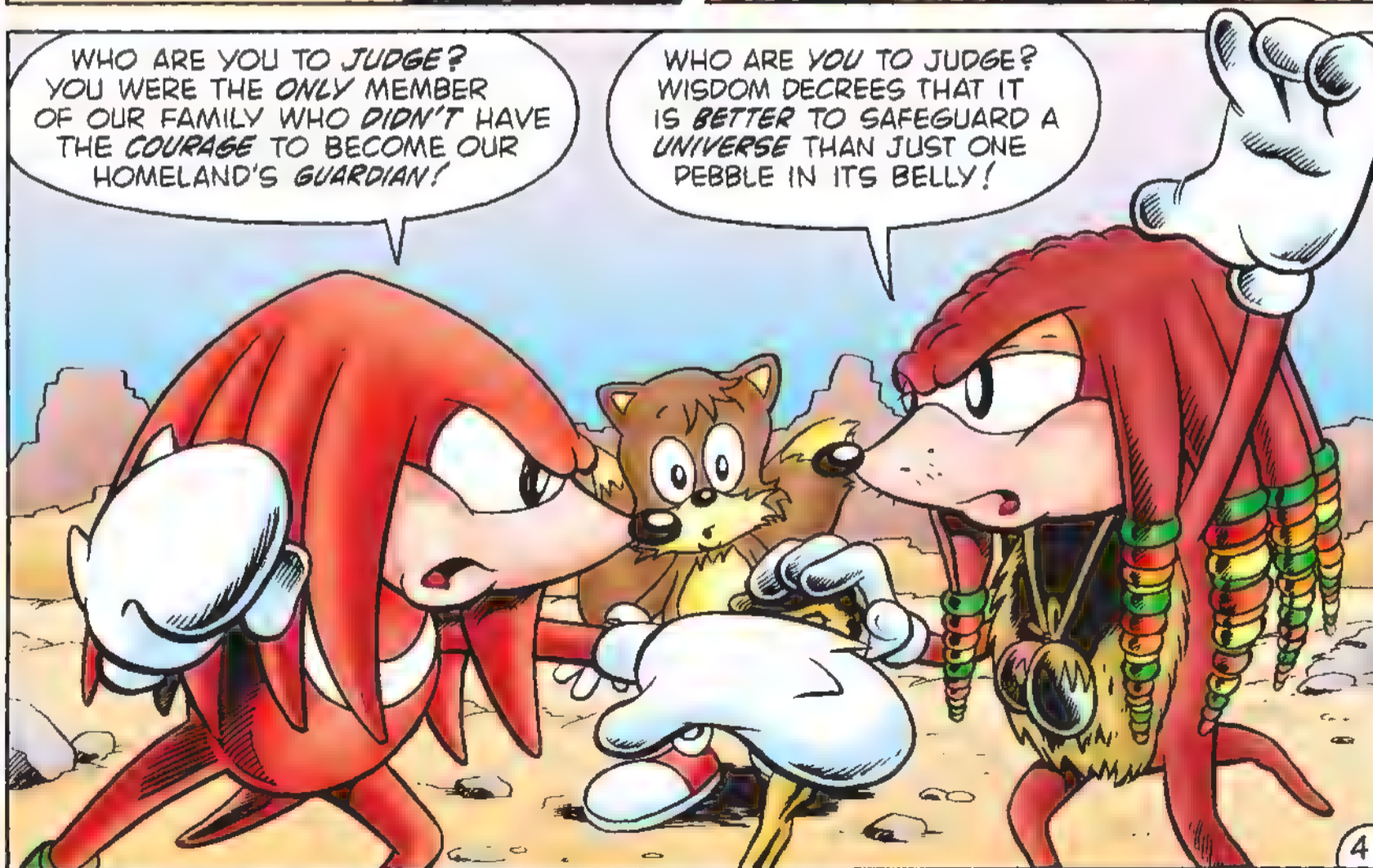
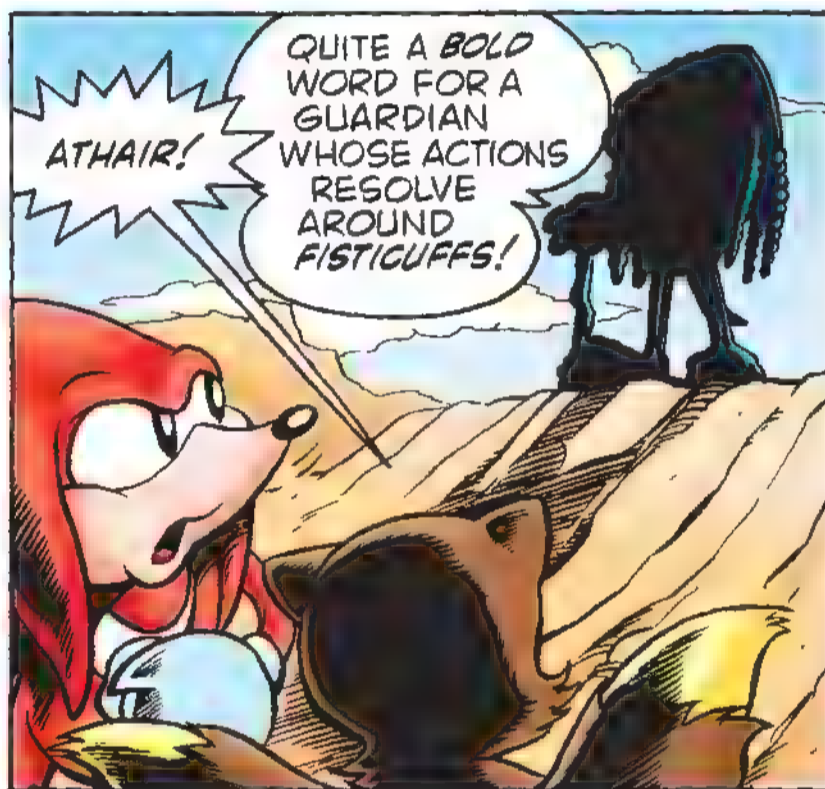
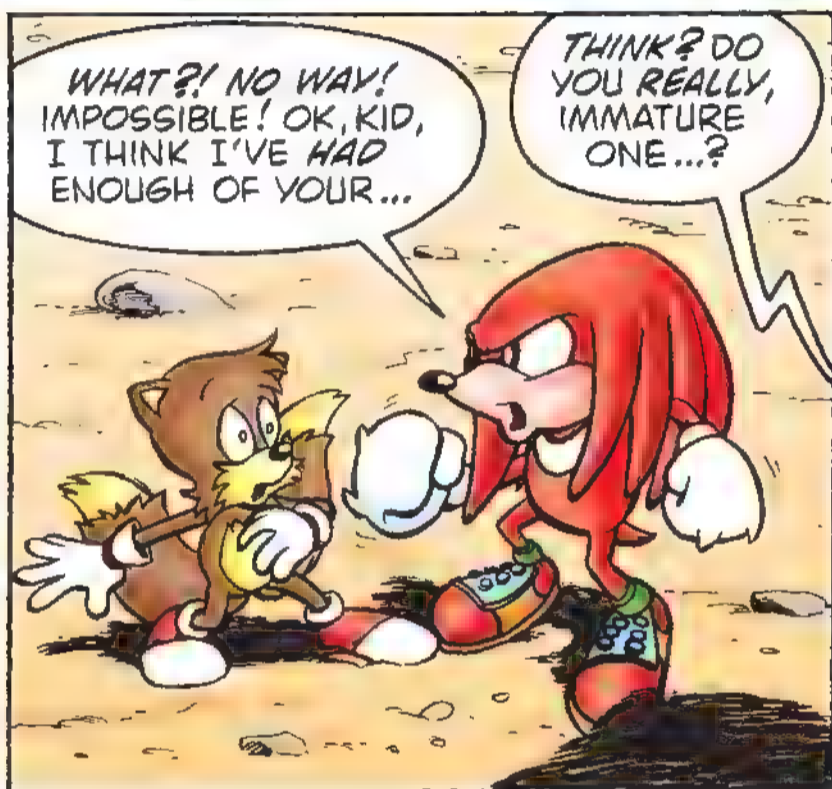
...AND THIS IS THE VERY CRATER WHERE I FIRST MET THEM!

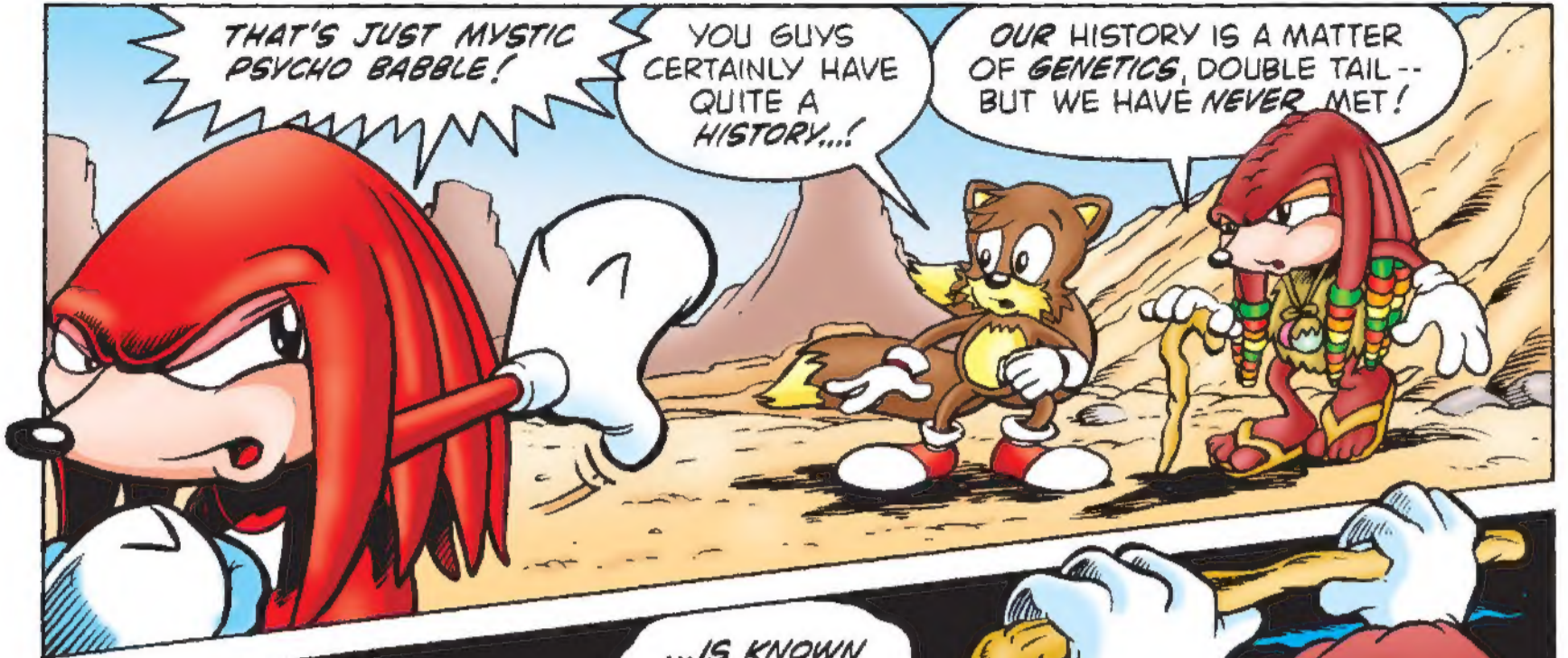
WELL, NO ONE'S HOME, SO LET'S KEEP SEARCHING!

... AND SEVERAL HOURS LATER ...

OH, NO, KID,
YOU LED US IN
CIRCLES!

BIG DEAL! I STILL SAY
WE'LL FIND ATHAIR HERE!
AFTER ALL, THIS CRATER IS
THE FORMER SITE OF THE
FLOATING ISLAND...!

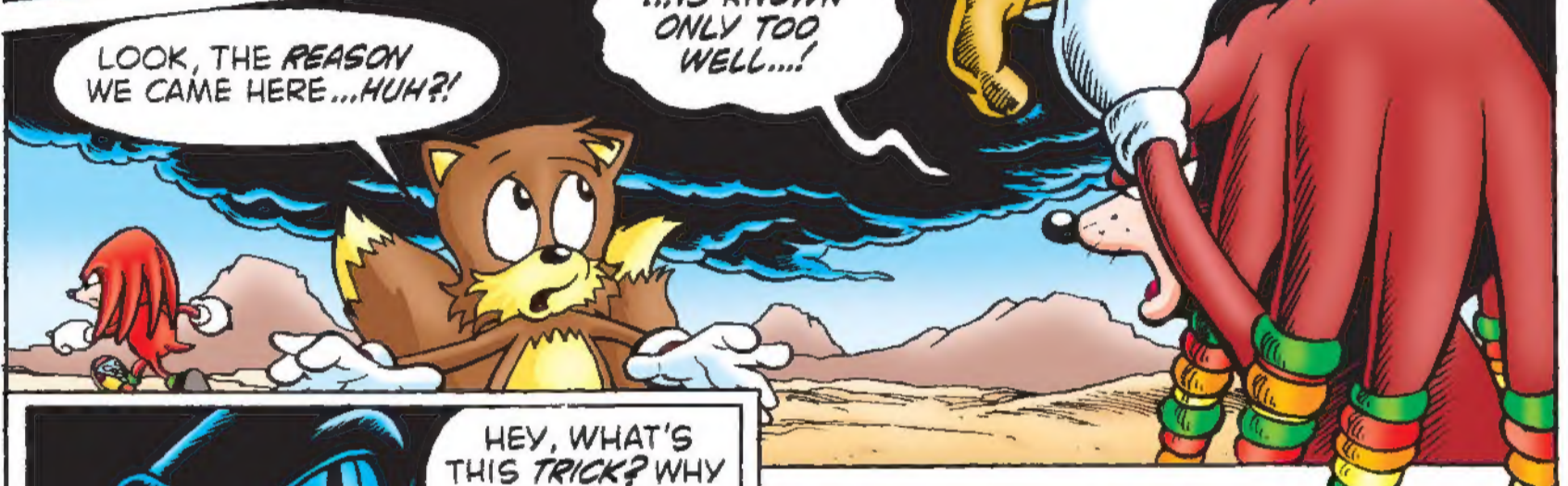




THAT'S JUST MYSTIC PSYCHO BABBLE!

YOU GUYS CERTAINLY HAVE QUITE A HISTORY...!

OUR HISTORY IS A MATTER OF GENETICS, DOUBLE TAIL -- BUT WE HAVE NEVER MET!



LOOK, THE REASON WE CAME HERE...HUH?!

...IS KNOWN ONLY TOO WELL...!



HEY, WHAT'S THIS TRICK? WHY IS IT GETTING SO DARK?



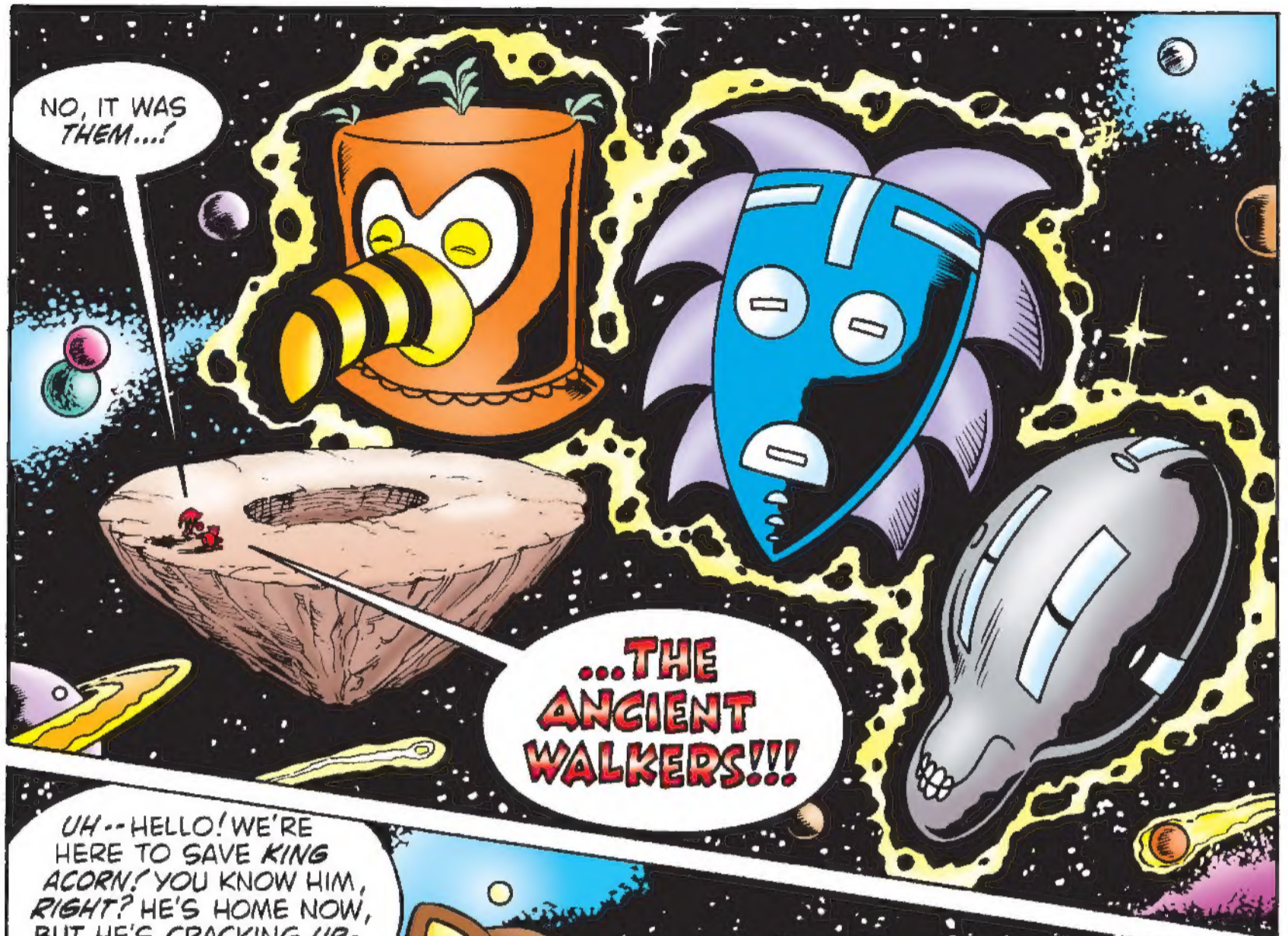
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?!

...SO YOUR TRAVEL TAKES YOU BACK TO WHERE YOU STARTED... YET YOU HAVE NOT TRAVELED AT ALL...

YOU ARE TRAVELING TO THE LIMITS OF INFINITY... BUT THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO INFINITY...

KER-PLUNK!

HEY, THAT'S NOT YOU TALKING...!



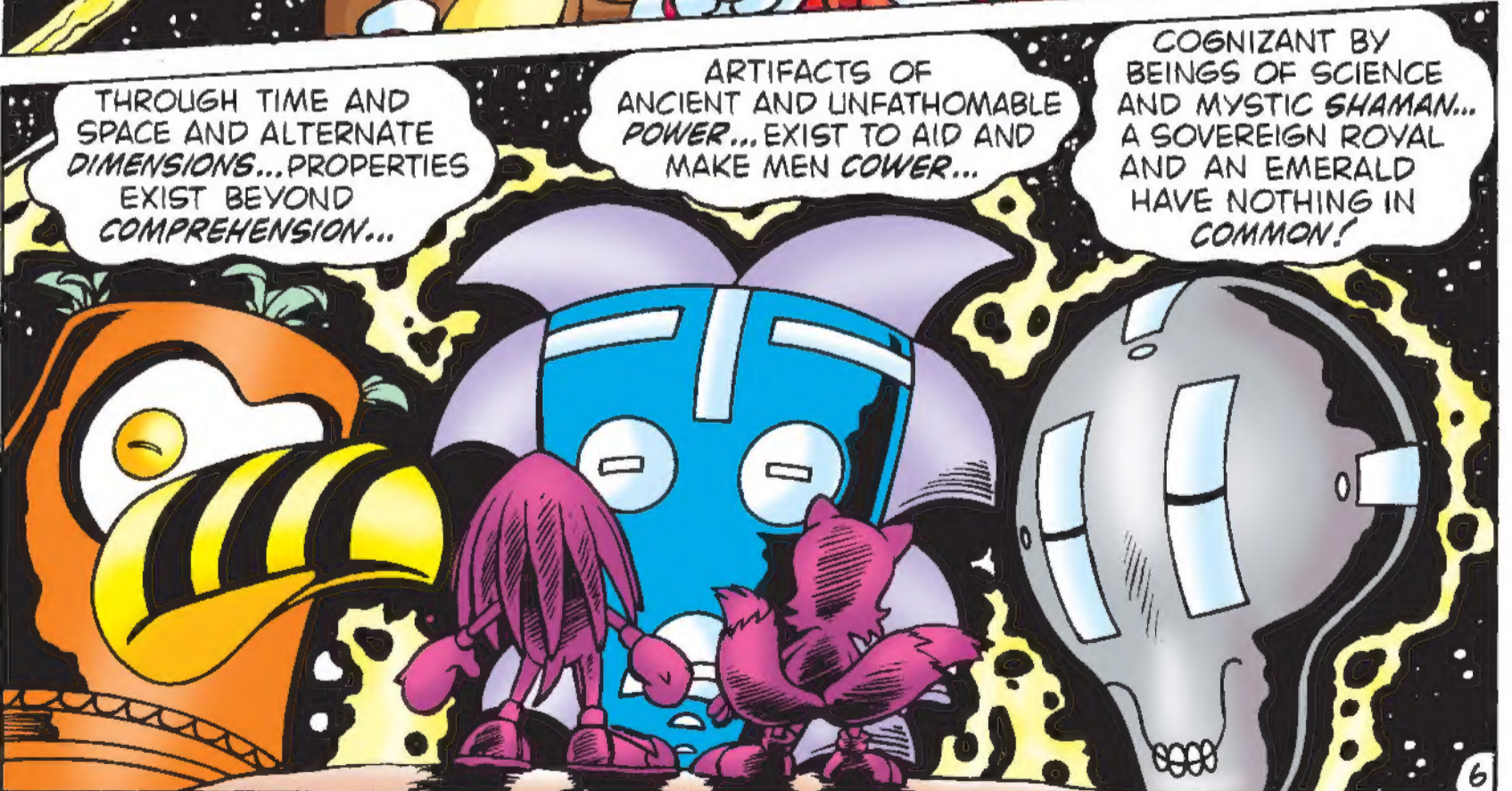
NO, IT WAS THEM....!

...THE ANCIENT WALKERS!!!



UH--HELLO! WE'RE HERE TO SAVE KING ACORN! YOU KNOW HIM, RIGHT? HE'S HOME NOW, BUT HE'S CRACKING UP-- UHH--ERR--TURNING TO CRYSTAL! AND WE NEED TO KNOW HOW A CHAOS EMERALD CAN SAVE HIM! SO PLEASE HELP US, OKAY?

JEEZ! AND I ACCUSED ATHAIR OF PSYCHO BABBLE ...!!



THROUGH TIME AND SPACE AND ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS... PROPERTIES EXIST BEYOND COMPREHENSION...

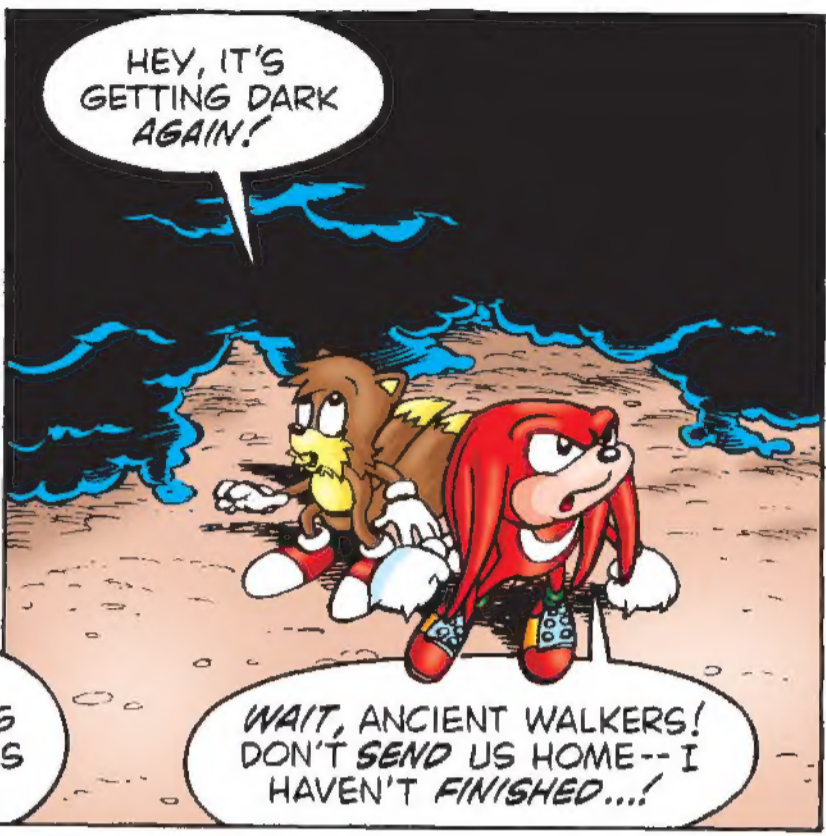
ARTIFACTS OF ANCIENT AND UNFATHOMABLE POWER... EXIST TO AID AND MAKE MEN COWER...

COGNIZANT BY BEINGS OF SCIENCE AND MYSTIC SHAMAN... A SOVEREIGN ROYAL AND AN EMERALD HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON!



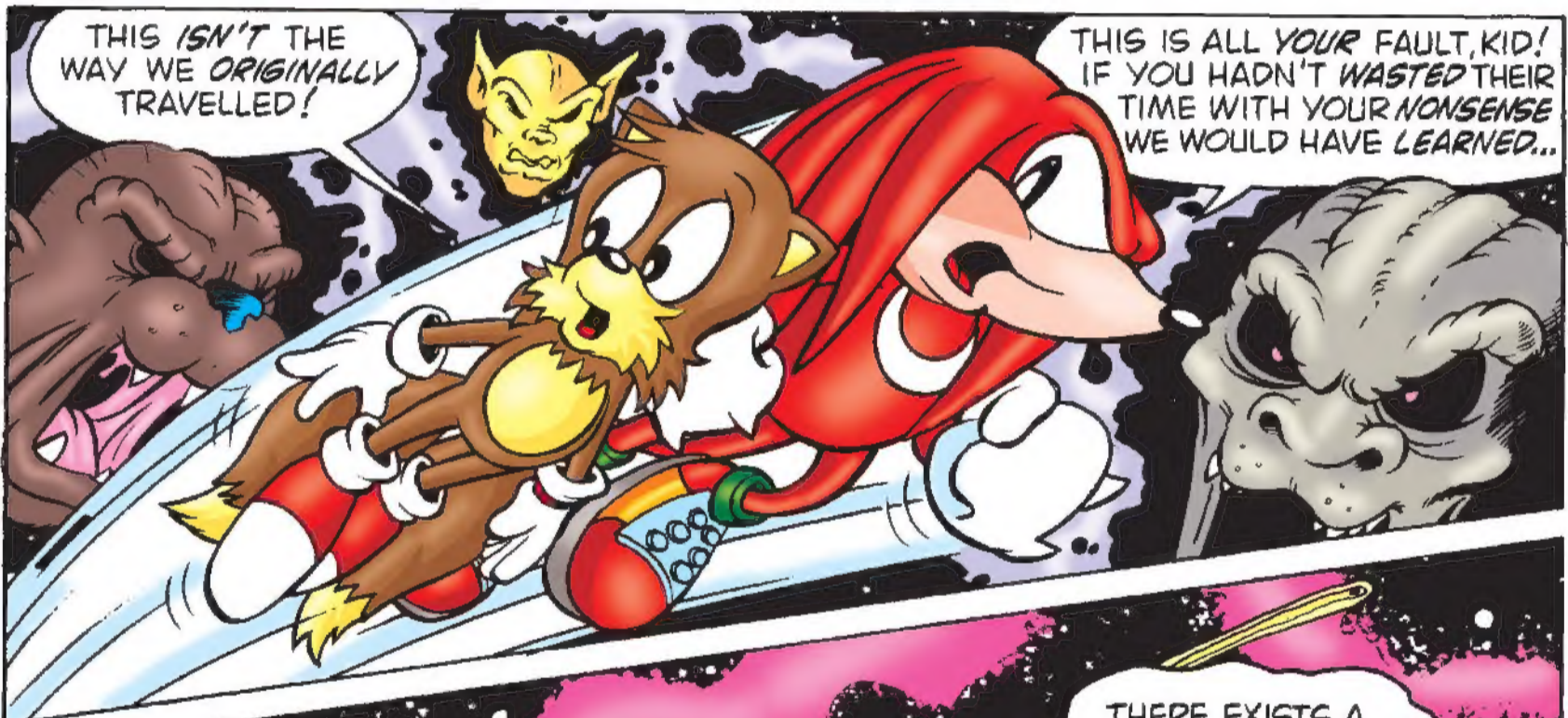
YOU MEAN A CHAOS EMERALD WON'T HELP HIM? WHY?

UHH--WE REALLY CAME HERE FOR HELP LOCATING THE KING'S SWORD! IT HAS A MAGICAL LINK TO HIS...



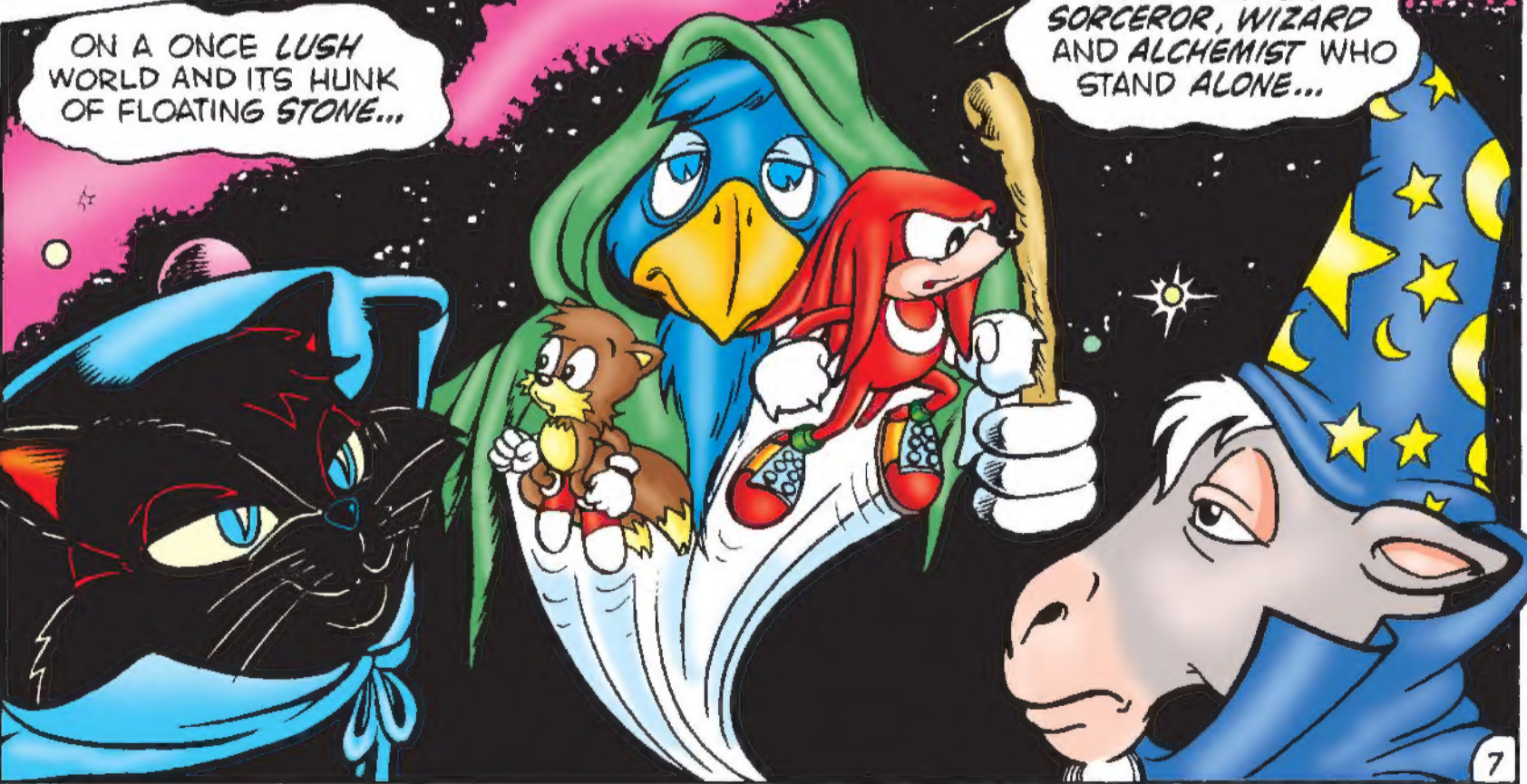
HEY, IT'S GETTING DARK AGAIN!

WAIT, ANCIENT WALKERS! DON'T SEND US HOME-- I HAVEN'T FINISHED...!



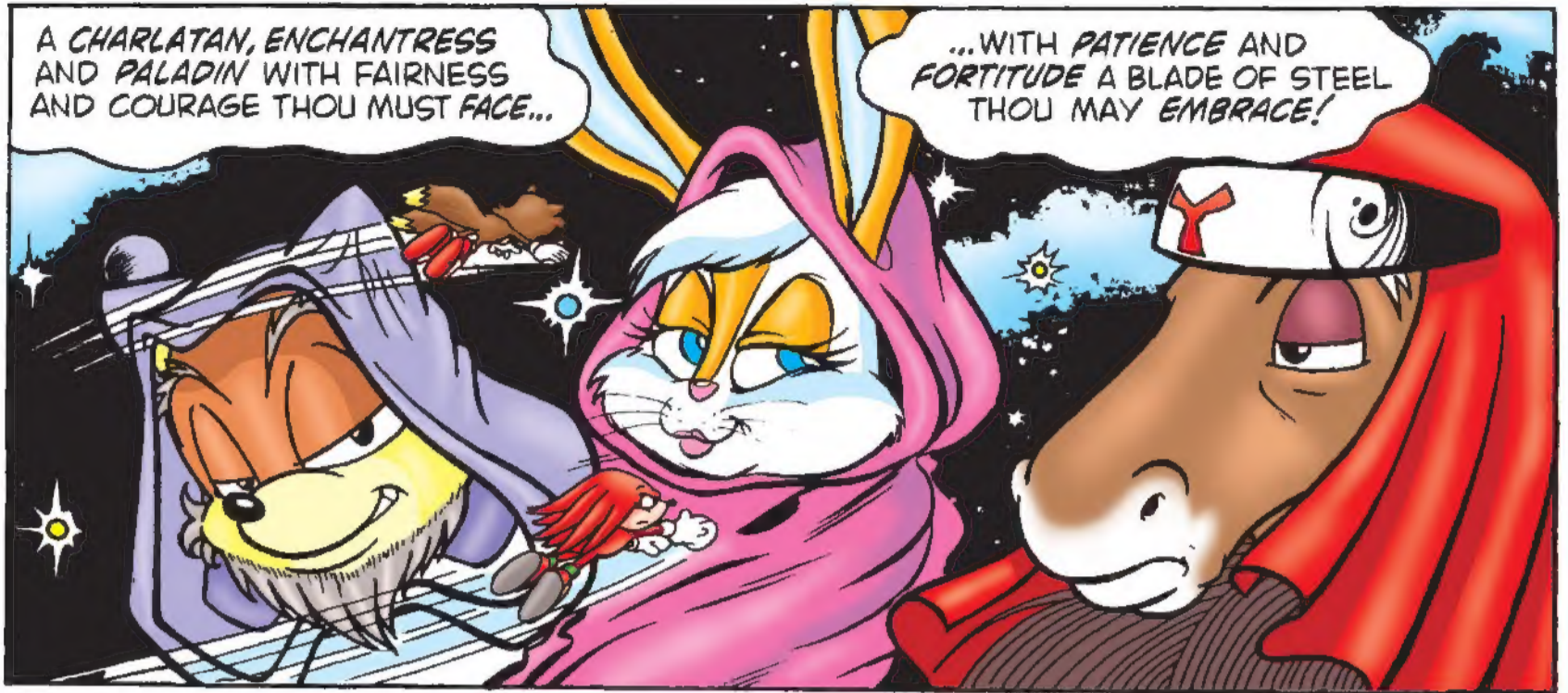
THIS ISN'T THE WAY WE ORIGINALLY TRAVELLED!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, KID! IF YOU HADN'T WASTED THEIR TIME WITH YOUR NONSENSE WE WOULD HAVE LEARNED...



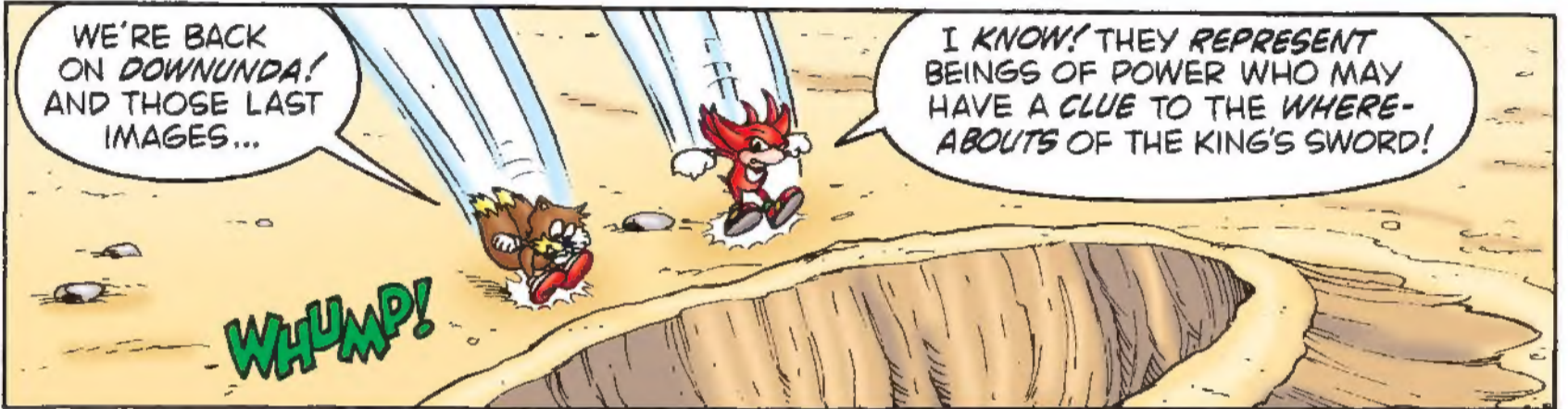
ON A ONCE LUSH WORLD AND ITS HUNK OF FLOATING STONE...

THERE EXISTS A SORCEROR, WIZARD AND ALCHEMIST WHO STAND ALONE...



A CHARLATAN, ENCHANTRESS AND PALADIN WITH FAIRNESS AND COURAGE THOU MUST FACE...

...WITH PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE A BLADE OF STEEL THOU MAY EMBRACE!



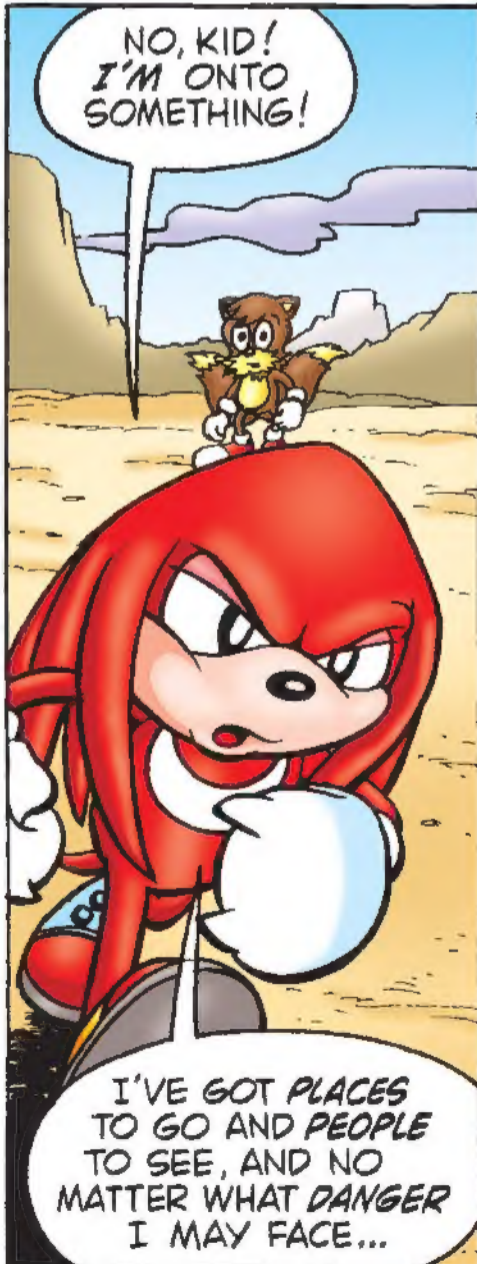
WE'RE BACK ON DOWNUNDA! AND THOSE LAST IMAGES...

I KNOW! THEY REPRESENT BEINGS OF POWER WHO MAY HAVE A CLUE TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE KING'S SWORD!

WHUMP!



NOW WE'RE FINALLY ONTO SOMETHING!



NO, KID! I'M ONTO SOMETHING!

I'VE GOT PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE, AND NO MATTER WHAT DANGER I MAY FACE...



...FROM HERE ON I GO IT ALONE!!!

SMACK!

KNUCKLES' QUEST WILL CONTINUE SOON! KEEP READING SONIC-GRAMS FOR DETAILS!